

Meningitis: Five Key Questions Beyond 2020

'Meningitis in the COVID-19 era'

Monday 16th November 2020, 15.00-16.30 GMT

Approved for 1 CPD credit by RCP (Code: 133154)

Agenda:

How do we maintain and strengthen meningitis prevention to counteract the impact of COVID-19 on healthcare and immunisation programmes? Chair: Dr Joanne Yarwood, Public Health England

COVID-19 lockdown has seen a reduction in confirmed cases of bacterial meningitis in the UK, likely due to reduced person to person contact, but are such temporary decreases likely to be reversed by reductions in immunisation?

Impact of COVID lockdown on meningococcal and pneumococcal infections, and on infant and school immunisation programmes in the UK: what is the predicted impact on meningococcal carriage and disease? What strategies are there for catch up? **Dr Mary Ramsay, PHE**

Current routine immunisation and immunisation campaigns around the world and how COVID has affected them; potential impact on scheduled MenA catch up campaigns in the African meningitis belt. **Dr Imran Mirza, UNICEF**

Modelled impact on control of meningitis in the African meningitis belt. **Dr Caroline Trotter, University of Cambridge**

Attitudes to vaccination in the COVID-19 era. **Dr Pauline Paterson, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

Speaker and Chair biographies:



Dr Joanne Yarwood is an Hon. Associate Professor at LSHTM and EPI Programme Manager at Public Health England. Jo trained as a nurse and midwife. Since 1984 she has pursued a career in primary care and research, working as a practice nurse then national nurse research co-ordinator for the British family Heart Study. She then worked as a district audit co-ordinator and held an honorary lectureship at the Department of Primary Care, University College London Medical School. She has been working in immunisation for 24 years and has led on key aspects of the programme including: the national

communication strategy; the planning and implementation of the routine immunisation programme including all new programmes since 1995. She has played a role in influencing the delivery of immunisation (including pandemic flu strategies) at both national and international levels and has presented at local, national and international level. She teaches every year at the summer Vaccinology course in Antwerp and has led work in the EU.



Dr Mary Ramsay as a consultant epidemiologist and Head of Immunisation for PHE, Mary Ramsay's department is responsible for the national surveillance of vaccine preventable diseases and for the planning and implementation of routine immunisation programmes in England. She has also provided expert advice to a range of UK and international agencies on vaccination policy and acted as PHE medical advisor to the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. Mary is the PHE lead on the joint NIHR Health Protection Research Unit on Immunisation (with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and has served for many years on Meningitis Research Foundation's Medical Advisory Group.



Dr Imran Mizra is a Health Specialist with UNICEF, Headquarter and is responsible for providing strategic support to the effective implementation of accelerated disease initiative programs, life-course approach, capacity building and humanitarian emergencies. Alongside +18 years of leadership and technical guidance experience in UNICEF, WHO and public sector, his focus remained on strategizing result-based programming; systematic capacity & institutional building; effective partnership & intersectoral linkages; designing & executing global & country level capacity building initiatives in conflict, post conflict and developing countries. He had a wide progressive experience at national (including public sector), and international level in health program management and strategic planning in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Lebanon, and Somalia. He is also a member of International Coordination Group (ICG) for Meningitis, Oral Cholera and Ebola vaccines, and various Global Task forces e.g. Meningitis, Ebola Vaccine introduction, Cholera, etc. He holds a degree in Medicine & Surgery (MBBS); Master's in Science (MSc) degree in Epidemiology; and Diploma in Business Administration.



Dr Caroline Trotter is an infectious disease epidemiologist with a particular interest in vaccine evaluation. She is based at the University of Cambridge and has an honorary position with Public Health England. Most of her research is on bacterial meningitis, and in particular meningococcal disease. She uses a variety of methods, including observational studies, mathematical modelling and cost-effectiveness analyses and enjoys addressing questions of direct relevance to vaccine and public health policy. Caroline is also the Director of the Cambridge-Africa Programme, a University wide initiative to connect researchers in Cambridge and Africa.



Dr Pauline Paterson is co-director of The Vaccine Confidence Project team with Dr Heidi Larson. Pauline has been researching issues of public confidence in immunisations since 2010. Specific research activities include qualitative analysis of parental reasons for not vaccinating their child with influenza vaccine in England, analysis of concerns surrounding HPV vaccine in India and Japan, and a systematic review on public trust in vaccination. She is a member of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit (HPRU) in Immunisation in partnership with Public Health England. Pauline has also researched HIV risk perception in sub-Saharan Africa, and feasibility and acceptability of PrEP in Kenya, and carried out a systematic review on conceptualizations of uncertainty and risk, and implications for uptake and use of biomedical HIV prevention technologies in sub-Saharan Africa. She has a PhD in Epidemiology, an MBA, and an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London. Her MBA project consisted of two systematic reviews and a case study in Thailand, in collaboration with WHO, exploring health system preparedness to changes in malaria and dengue fever epidemiology as a result of climate change.

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