MMR Catch-up for 10 to 17 year olds

As described in the recently issued CMO letter (http://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/cmo/CMO(2013)07.pdf) we are undertaking a short catch-up campaign across Scotland to offer MMR vaccine to all 10 to 17 year olds who are either partially immunised or unimmunised.

We have written to the parents of all children and young people in this age group who according to our records fall into this category, advising them to contact their GP practice and make an appointment for vaccination. A leaflet has also been provided: http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/uploads/documents/21208-MMRBooklet.pdf


All member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe should be seeking to achieve the elimination of measles by 2015, and WHO has set criteria, one of which is maximum susceptibility levels in the population.

In 2011 Health Protection Scotland undertook work using data from SIRS to estimate measles susceptibility levels in Scotland, and this is illustrated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group</th>
<th>WHO target</th>
<th>Scotland</th>
<th>Highland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15+</td>
<td>&lt;5%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This exercise has not been repeated so the individuals are now two years older, and a small proportion will now have received MMR. However, it still indicates that levels of susceptibility to measles in Highland are significantly higher than desired. All efforts therefore should be made to encourage uptake of MMR during this catch-up campaign.

The HEAT Standard for MMR1 uptake is 95% at five years of age. NHS Highland met this target in all quarters of 2012, but in Quarter 1 of 2013 uptake was 94.6%. There is therefore still a need for all healthcare professionals to promote uptake of MMR and follow-up those children who do not attend.

Stop press—World Hepatitis Day, 28 July 2013

“IT’S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK”

is the theme for this year’s World Hepatitis Day.

For details and lots of information resources, see: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/hepatitis/world_hepatitis_day/en/index.html
Food Safety Week 2013: Kitchen Check

Although the specific week (10 to 16 June) will have passed when you read this, you may wish to look at the material on the Food Standards Agency's website at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/kitchen-check

In a recent survey the Agency found that 80% of those questioned carried out one or more food behaviours that put them at risk of food poisoning. On the above link you can see how safe your practice is, and also download an activity pack for young people to help learn about food safety and hygiene.

Canine rabies in Spain—advice for holiday makers

On 6 June animal health officials reported a case of canine rabies in a family pet in Toledo, Castile-La Mancha in central Spain. The dog had been living in Morocco with its owners and two other family pet dogs, and returned to Spain on 13 April 2013.

The dog's behaviour changed on 20 May and on 1 June the dog was destroyed after biting four children, one adult, and another dog. Rabies was confirmed.

Spain is classified as a no risk country for terrestrial rabies and the rabies advice is unchanged. However Cueta and Melilla, two autonomous cities of Spain on the north coast of Africa, surrounded by Morocco, are classified as high risk. The city of Cueta is very close to mainland Spain, separated only by the Strait of Gibraltar.

Travellers should be aware of the potential for importation of the rabies virus from Morocco to Spain. Pre-exposure prophylaxis is not recommended for most travellers to Spain. Animal contact should be avoided and any animal bites sustained should be reported promptly for medical assessment.

Further advice is available at http://www.travax.nhs.uk for health professionals, and at http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk for members of the public.