

## Public Health England

### Who are they?

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Public Health England (PHE) is an **executive agency of the Department of Health** with a broad remit to advise and support local and national government, the NHS and other organisations regarding all aspects of **public health**. It was formed in 2013 as part of the reorganisations following the Health and Social Care Act of 2012, and took on roles previously carried out by multiple organisations including the Health Protection Agency and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

### What do they do?

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PHE's stated role is **'to protect and improve the nation's health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities'**. This covers a broad range of activities including:



#### Health Protection

- Emergency preparedness and response to public health emergencies
- **The National Infection Service** – including reference microbiology services and specialist diagnostics/advice regarding infectious and tropical disease
- **The Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards** – including the National Poisons Service – issuing specialist advice and training in these areas

#### Health Improvement and Population Health

- Health and wellbeing programs – e.g. 'Change4Life' and 'Be Clear On Cancer'
- Population **Screening** Programs – issuing resources to support delivery by the NHS
- **Immunisation** – producing guidelines/protocols and patient information



#### Data Collection and Analysis

- Infectious disease statistics – including Notifications of Infectious Diseases
- Other **health and disease statistics** – for use by national and local government to inform policy priorities and to monitor public health programs

### Recent work

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- Notifiable diseases: causative agents reports  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notifiable-diseases-causative-agents-report>
- 'Stay Well This Winter' Campaign  
<https://www.nhs.uk/staywell>
- Update regarding the Impact trial in England – a study of the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in HIV positive patients  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-prep-impact-trial-in-england>
- Public Health Advice Following the Grenfell Tower Fire  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-health-advice-following-the-grenfell-tower-fire>
- 'Rise Above for Schools' – resources for use in secondary schools addressing improved mental health and wellbeing in young people  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-launches-rise-above-for-schools-programme>