

Welcome

This publication provides updates for colleagues and partners across UKHSA, OHID and the Overseas Territories.

If you have any queries, feedback or contributions please contact: UKOTs.Programme@ukhsa.gov.uk

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Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Workshop

In light of the ever increasing global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the UKOTs Programme held a regional Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) workshop in December 2023.

Delegates attended from across the Caribbean UKOTs including Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands, as well as from the regional public health entities PAHO and CARPHA. The workshop involved practical laboratory sessions focused on the detection of AMR as well as professional development sessions on topics including antimicrobial stewardship, diagnostics, the use of the Microguide in prescribing, surveillance approaches and AMS accreditation.

Feedback from the workshop was incredibly positive, with strengthened regional networks and renewed motivation and commitment to tackle AMR in the region.

The UKOTs programme would like to extend its thanks to colleagues at the Ministry of Health in Anguilla for hosting the event, as well as to John Lee (Laboratory Lead) and Matthew Dryden (Consultant Microbiologist) for their work leading and delivering such a successful workshop.

Network Spotlight: UKOTs Epidemiology Network

The UKOTs Epidemiology Network was established in 2022, bringing together the diverse group of professionals contributing to epidemiology, surveillance, and population health data across the UKOTs. The Network aims to provide a safe forum for accessing peer support to discuss challenges and collaboratively problem solve; to share good practice; and to identify and enable opportunities for training and professional development.

The group, which includes representatives from across 9 UKOTs, meets every 6-8 weeks. Session topics are generated through group consensus and feedback, and have included the STEPS survey in Anguilla, common data management challenges and solutions, and mortality data and death registries. Feedback has been positive and suggests that the Network has improved relationships and collaboration amongst members, both within and outside of the formal sessions.

An appetite for R training was identified via the Network, and as a result the UKOTs Programme facilitated 13 colleagues to attend an R training course. R is a free, open source statistical software and programming language used for statistical data analysis. Although findings from the post-course survey are not yet available, feedback has been positive, including a comment by one participant who found the course “really interesting... and quite fun”.

Upcoming topics include the mumps outbreak investigation in Tristan da Cunha, gender inequality and health data, and the HPV prevalence study in Montserrat.



UK Overseas Territories Public Health Network

We are pleased to announce that the UK Overseas Territories - Public Health Network (UKOT-PHN) website is live and ready for use. This is an online repository for best practice, intelligence and information sharing on health and public health issues for public health colleagues in the UKOTs.

While recognising the individuality of the UKOTs, some of the challenges faced are similar, specifically in capacity limitations, geographical setting, and population demography. The UKOT-PHN will help to facilitate shared learning by sharing best practice, showcasing current projects, and signposting to upcoming events and training.

The site is free to access, and you can register with [The Global Health Network \(https://tghn.org/\)](https://tghn.org/). Anyone registered with the global health network will be able to access the site and will find that there are multiple thematic areas that they can navigate to. Some sections are restricted to UKOT Programme networks, and access is facilitated by invitation only.

We encourage you to access the site and become familiar with the layout. Within the next few weeks, all material should be uploaded with new content continuously be uploaded throughout the year, keeping the site up to date and relevant.

Workforce Development in Montserrat

In November, Lara Kontos (Workforce Development Lead) and Natalia Rzeszotko (Senior Programme Officer) visited Montserrat to pilot the WHO Public Health and Emergency Workforce Roadmap as well as to launch the Montserrat Care Certificate.

WHO provide a methodology to map and measure the quantity and quality of the public health and emergency workforce and this is the first time it has been piloted in a small island developing state. The mapping process consisted of a two-day workshop where 17 representatives from across government departments identified the key occupations responsible for delivering essential public health functions (EPHFs) within Montserrat. The UK team then facilitated a consultation exercise where the group collaboratively determined the three main EPHFs that Montserrat would prioritise in upcoming years. The findings from the workshop will provide valuable information which will be used to inform training and development initiatives for the local public health workforce and to feed into a Public Health Workforce Strategy for Montserrat.

During this visit, the programme also supported the Montserrat Ministry of Health and Social Services to launch the Montserrat Care Certificate - an induction programme for health and social care support workers.



The programme provides foundation training to support the professional development of care staff and to ensure they have the necessary skills to provide quality care within both clinical and community settings. As part of the first cohort to pilot the certification process, 20 nurse assessors, 20 health care support workers, and 6 specialist topic facilitators participated in a series of training workshops. Over the next six months, the health care support workers, under the supervision and guidance of their assessors, will work through signing off the 15 competencies identified in the care certificate as requirements to delivering safe, effective, and ethical care.