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COVID-19 - General

[Local restrictions in Aberdeen](#)

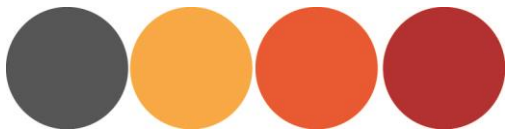
The Scottish Government has re-imposed some lockdown restrictions on Aberdeen following a spike in coronavirus cases in the city. There are local restrictions on travel, indoor gatherings between households and the closure of indoor and outdoor hospitality, and people can continue to travel for work, or education purposes.

[Supporting evidence for review of COVID-19 restrictions](#)

The Scottish Government has published supporting evidence to inform decisions about timings of changes within Phase 3 as set out at the review point on 30 July 2020. It includes information on the assessment by the Chief Medical Officer on whether or not the virus no longer poses a significant threat to public health and how this has affected the progress through the lockdown route map.

[Updated guidance on contact tracing in complex settings](#)

Health Protection Scotland has published the latest guidance on the identification of contacts of confirmed cases of COVID-19 when either the case and/or the contact is linked to a complex setting, such as care settings. The document is for use by all staff involved in tracing and managing contacts of cases in complex settings, including care homes, early learning and childcare services and day care centres for older or vulnerable people. Tracing and managing is undertaken by NHS board health protection teams who will receive information from local contact tracing staff when a complex setting is identified during initial follow-up with the case.



[Next steps in reopening respite and day care services set out](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter on the re-establishment of respite and day care services, setting out next steps in the wider reopening of adult day centres and residential respite for both children and adults. The letter confirms that respite support at home, outdoor activities and children's day care can all continue in line with existing infection control guidance. Comprehensive guidance on adult day care services and residential respite will be published in late August. In the interim, all registered adult day centre and residential respite services that wish to reopen can do so subject to agreement of their approach by the local Health Protection teams and the Care Inspectorate.

[NRS and Care Inspectorate publish latest COVID-19 data](#)

The [latest statistics](#) from National Records of Scotland on coronavirus deaths have been published. Between 27 July and 2 August, seven deaths were registered that mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, representing a decrease of one from last week. Of the 4,208 deaths involving COVID-19 registered to date, 46% are related to deaths in care homes, 46% of deaths were in hospitals and 7% of deaths were at home or non-institutional settings.

The Care Inspectorate has also laid before the Scottish Parliament a [report of inspections](#) carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This is in accordance with Paragraph 22 in Part 9 of Schedule 1 to the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020. To meet the duties imposed by the Act and to comply with associated guidance, the Care Inspectorate must focus and report on infection prevention and control, PPE and staffing. The Care Inspectorate has amended its quality framework for care homes to support this process.

Child Protection

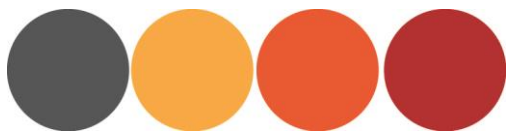
[Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry Hearings: Scottish Government evidence](#)

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry will begin hearings in November 2020 to examine the actions of central government in relation to issues arising out of non-recent abuse of children in institutional care. These hearings will explore reasons why calls for a public inquiry throughout the period between August 2002 and December 2014 were turned down by the Scottish Government.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Guidance on support for the childcare sector during the pandemic](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for private and third sector childcare providers and childminders on the range of business and financial support that has been made available to the childcare sector.



[Guidelines for unregulated informal play services](#)

Play Scotland has published Guidelines for unregulated, informal play services which are intended to support the play sector as they consider resuming outdoor organised activities.

[Project to look at effect of pandemic on early years workforce](#)

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has launched a year-long research project with Education Policy Institute (EPI) to look at the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the early years workforce. The project aims to gain insight into the impact of COVID-19 in England, Wales and Scotland, and to capture the evolving nature of the challenges over the next year, with a focus on issues relating to recruitment and retention of staff, impact on staff qualification levels and opportunities for continuing professional development.

[Research on early years workforce \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Social Mobility Commission has published a research report on the early years workforce in England. The research reportedly shows that low pay, a high workload and a lack of career development for early years workers could impact on the stability of the workforce.

Education

[Planning for future lockdowns and schools \(England\)](#)

The Children's Commissioner for England has published a briefing setting out key actions and stating that if any local or national lockdown takes place, that schools should be the last places to be locked down, after pubs, restaurants and non-essential shops. The briefing also calls for regular testing of pupils and teachers – regardless of whether they have COVID-19.

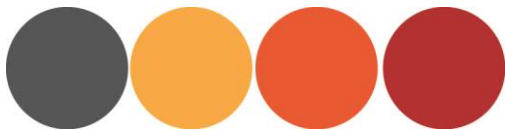
Human rights

[Impact of the pandemic on children's rights](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has written to the Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee with the results of their independent Children's Rights Impact Assessment, documenting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and young people in Scotland. of particular concern to the Commissioner is that children have not been involved in decision making processes.

[Updated assessment of approach to COVID-19 and children's human rights](#)

The Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights (Together) has published an updated assessment of Scottish Government's approach to COVID-19 and the impact on children's human rights. After an initial report in May 2020, the updated assessment



covers recent developments including the planned return to schools in August, SQA results, changes to physical distancing rules for children, and consultation work with children and young people with experience of the children's hearings system. The report also covers new publications and data from Scottish Government

Justice

[Results of a survey into experiences of Children's Hearings](#)

The Centre for Excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis) and Central for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) have published the results of a survey of the experiences of virtual Children's Hearings. Positive findings include that a move to virtual hearings offers advantages such as a familiar environment for young people, parents and carers, as well as reducing the time and cost of travel. More challenging aspects include access to paperwork, confidential space for advocates and participants and technological barriers. Fairness, how inclusive a virtual Hearing can be, and the rights of children, are key concerns also raised for further development.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Digital exclusion and the care system](#)

Celcis and the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant have published a briefing on the challenges and solutions to digital exclusion before and during COVID-19 restrictions. A brief overview of the current situation for care experienced young people in Scotland is brought together with findings from conversations with local authorities to focus on key challenges and barriers, plus possible short term and long term solutions.

Other Health and Social Care

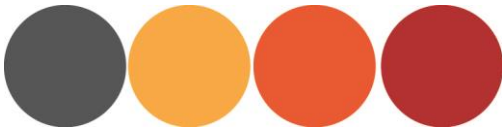
[Continuous professional learning requirement to replace PRTL](#)

Plans to replace post registration training and learning with a new continuous professional learning requirement have been announced by the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC). It follows two years of consultation and work with employers and registrants on a new continuous learning experience. The SSSC said it would introduce the new requirement at the end of October and will hold online familiarisation sessions for employers and registrants in the autumn.

Other

[Douglas Ross appointed Scottish Conservative leader](#)

Douglas Ross has been confirmed as the new leader of the Scottish Conservatives after Jackson Carlaw stepped down last week. The MP for Moray hopes to win a seat at the Scottish Parliament in the 2021 election, and until then former leader Ruth Davidson will stand in at First Minister's Questions.

**Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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