COVID-19

Second report to Scottish Parliament on use of powers in COVID-19 legislation

The Scottish Government has published its second two-monthly report to Parliament on the use of powers within the Coronavirus Act 2020, Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020 up until Friday 31 July.

Flu vaccination programme expands to protect those at risk during pandemic

The Scottish Government has announced that eligibility for the free flu vaccination programme will be expanded to social care workers, people over 55 years old, and household members of those shielding, to protect those most at risk from concurrent infection of COVID-19 and flu. Groups who will continue to be eligible for the free flu vaccine include: those aged 65 and over, those with underlying health conditions, pregnant women, children aged between two and five, primary school children, health care workers and young and unpaid carers.

The Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care, the Coalition of Care and support Providers in Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council have issued a joint statement in support of the Scottish Government's decision to extend health board free flu vaccine programmes to include certain social care staff.
COVID-19

Workbook to add management of outbreaks

The Scottish Government has published a workbook with advice on how local and national public health agencies will provide support that helps to put in place the action needed to prevent coronavirus spread, together with advice on management of outbreaks.

NRS publishes latest Coronavirus statistics

The latest statistics from National Records of Scotland on coronavirus deaths have been published. Between 3 and 9 August, five deaths were registered that mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, representing a decrease of two from last week. Of the 4,213 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.

Review of methodology to record COVID-19 deaths

Public Health England has published a review of the methodology used to record COVID-19 deaths and a single consistent measure for daily reporting of deaths is recommended to be adopted across the UK. The new methodology only includes deaths in people with COVID-19 that occurred within 28 days of testing positive, which brings the number of all deaths in patients testing positive for COVID-19 in the UK to 41,329.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

Impact of Coronavirus on dementia assessment and diagnosis

The Alzheimer’s Society has published a blog on the impact of Coronavirus on dementia assessment and diagnosis, setting out their key concerns on primary care about access to services, quality of initial assessment, prioritisation of patients, and on memory assessment services about service availability, equality of access, waiting lists, complex cases and subtype diagnoses and diagnostic support.

Care Homes/Care at Home

New tool for care home information

The Scottish Government has announced that a new web-based tool, Turas Care Management, will be available from Friday 14 August and allow care homes to record information in one place, including COVID-19 infection rates, demand on services and staff testing. Developed in collaboration with the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care and NHS Education Scotland (NES), the tool aims to support care homes to review their data over time, demonstrate the safety and quality of the services they provide and facilitate escalation of key concerns to the Health and
Social Care Partnership and Care Inspectorate when issues arise and support is required.

**Clinical guidance for people receiving care at home or housing support**

The Scottish Government has published COVID-19 guidance aimed at local authorities, Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) and registered providers, who support and deliver care and support to people in their own homes to support measures to prevent and prepare for infection in people receiving care at home or housing support.

**Expansion of care home visiting**

The Scottish Government has confirmed that care home residents will be able to have up to three outdoor visitors from no more than two households provided their home meets strict criteria, with infection control measures remaining in place. Care home providers have also been asked to develop plans on how they can safely allow one designated indoor visitor for residents within their homes. **Guidance** for care homes has also been published, setting out how care home visiting may be re-introduced.

**Inquiry into impact of COVID-19 on care and support at home**

The Scottish Parliament’s Health and Sport Committee has launched a consultation, ‘How has Covid-19 impacted on care and support at home in Scotland?’ as part of its Social Care Inquiry. The inquiry will examine the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the social care sector, wider issues impacting social care delivery that have come to light because of COVID-19, and explore how those lessons can be applied in the future to improve social care systems and delivery in Scotland. The Committee are looking for views from people who provide, or receive, care and support at home, including individuals receiving care at home, family members and unpaid carers, and staff, managers or owners of care at home services, or personal assistants providing care. The closing date for views is Monday 7 September 2020.

**Mental Health**

**Mental Welfare Commission publishes results of independent stakeholder survey**

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has published the results of an independent stakeholder survey and their action plan response. The main aim of the research was to undertake an evaluation of the perception of the Commission and its impact, to understand what the Commission is doing well and to identify any areas for improvements.

**Latest version of mental health and incapacity advice note**

The Mental Welfare Commission has published the latest version of its COVID-19 advice note for practitioners who are using the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act when caring for patients.
Older People

**Online art classes for creativity and company**

Age UK is highlighting an artist who set up recorded art lessons for older people to stay engaged during lockdown and weekly online catchups to provide company for the group members.

Other Health and Social Care

**Resource to improve awareness of domestic abuse**

The Scottish Government has announced that a new online resource will be available to help support people experiencing, or at risk of, domestic abuse, and to improve understanding of coercive controlling behaviours for professionals in the housing, social work, health, education and other sectors. The Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising Tool has been developed in partnership with stakeholders by the domestic abuse charity Safe Lives, and is part of a wider programme of accessible resources to improve the capacity of public service staff in Scotland to recognise and safely respond to survivors of domestic abuse.

Other

**Annual report for Scottish Parliament**

The Scottish Parliament has published its annual report for 2019-2020, noting matters relating Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic have made up the bulk of business throughout the past year, with the Parliament adapting how business was conducted following the introduction of social distancing measures and lockdown. This culminated in the Parliament holding its first fully remote plenary business on Thursday 7 May. Overall, 26 bills were introduced in the Parliament from 2019-20, with 19 Bills being passed and 22 Bills receiving Royal Assent.
Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

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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