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COVID-19 - General

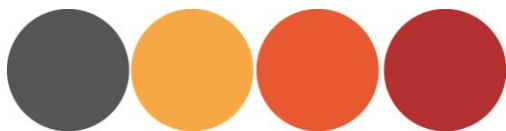
[Second report to Scottish Parliament on use of powers in COVID-19 legislation](#)

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.



[Workbook on 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.

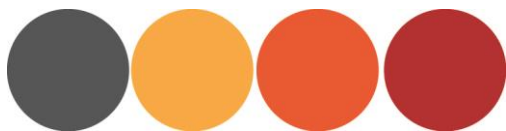
Child Protection

[Reported rise in police recorded child sex offences](#)

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has reported on figures they received through Freedom of Information requests to police forces in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland on the number of recorded sexual offences against children. The NSPCC states that the figures show that there were 73,518 recorded offences including rape, online grooming and sexual assault against children in the UK in 2019/20 – up 57% in the 5 years since 2014/15.

[Impact of the pandemic on children's services \(England\)](#)

The President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has reflected on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children's services and the opportunity for enhanced and more productive partnership working. Reflecting on the challenges and opportunities of the pandemic, Ms Coles talks about streamlined bureaucracy, partnerships between local authorities and schools, and sharing information.



Early Learning and Childcare

[Nurseries and childminders to be visited \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has announced that from September, they will be visiting some nurseries and childminders to make sure that standards are being maintained and that there is well-run, safe and effective childcare available for all who need it. The visits are part of a phased return to routine inspection, and will not result in an inspection grade, though inspectors will still be able to use regulatory or enforcement powers if necessary. Ofsted have also published [guidance on interim visits](#) that sets out how the interim visits will work in practice and which providers they will be visiting.

Education

[Education workers can get tested for COVID-19](#)

The Scottish Government has announced that teachers, nursery and school staff can be tested for COVID-19 on demand if they are concerned they have been at risk from infection, even if they show no symptoms.

[Downgraded results to be changed to teacher estimates](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that pupils whose results were downgraded by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) will receive new grades based solely on teacher estimates, without reference to historical patterns. The SQA will inform schools of the revised results by Friday 21 August for schools to tell pupils. An independent review will also be carried out to reflect on the events following the cancellation of the examination diet and make recommendations for the coming year.

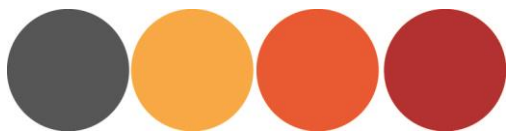
Human rights

[Care Inspectorate reports on work supporting UNCRC](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report on how our work supports the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The report includes information on the work we do with young people and in the early learning and childcare sector, how we involve young people in our inspections, improvements to how young people can complain about care, and resources to help professionals and care services improve the care children and young people experience.

[Call for a rights-based approach to education](#)

The Children and Young People's Panel on Europe, a group of 19 children and young people aged 9-19 from across Scotland, has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Education John Swinney calling for a rights-based approach to education and for the Scottish Government to support young people's right to education as the UK leaves the EU, Children in Scotland reports. In the letter the Panel call for a rights-based approach to education; children and young people to be involved in decision-



making; preservation of study and travel programmes such as Erasmus+ post-Brexit; and improved political education.

Other Health and Social Care

[Welfare assessments in child welfare hearings and the Children \(Scotland\) Bill](#)

The British Association of Social Workers in Scotland (BASW) has written to Ash Denham regarding Stage 3 of the Children (Scotland) Bill, specifically with regards to the quality of welfare assessments in child welfare hearings. BASW are proposing an amendment to the Bill which would ensure that only a social worker registered with the Scottish Social Services Council may be appointed as a child welfare reporter.

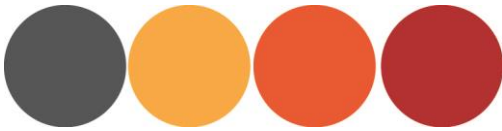
[Resource to improve awareness of domestic abuse](#)

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 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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