



Adult and Health

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COVID-19 - General

[Increased capacity for testing](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed plans to establish 11 walk-through testing centres in Scotland. The clinically-approved and risk-assessed model means people can access COVID-19 testing in semi-permanent centres, both indoor and outdoor, just days after a site has been agreed. People will be able to book appointments through NHS Inform. The first site will be based in St Andrews and will be up and running before winter.

[Community in Action project to look at lessons learned](#)

The ALLIANCE has outlined plans to look at the learning from [case studies](#) it has published on third sector responses to COVID-19. The Community in Action initiative will look at actions taken during the crisis, organisations' vision for the future and the challenges that will be faced in realising these visions.

[New data on excess deaths](#)

Public Health Scotland has published statistics breaking down non-COVID-19 excess deaths by underlying cause and area of deprivation. The data covers the period 16 March to 21 June inclusive. Deaths with an underlying cause of COVID-19 contributed most (82%) to the 32% excess mortality rates this year. Other underlying causes include dementia and Alzheimer's disease (8 per cent), external and ill-defined causes. Pre-existing mortality inequalities relating to dementia, external and ill-defined causes and circulatory causes widened the furthest during the period.



[Weekly COVID report from Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. As of Sunday 23 August, there had been 19,877 confirmed cases, which equates to 363.8 confirmed cases per 100,000 population. 5,970 hospital admissions and 535 admissions to intensive care have been recorded.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Peter Macleod and Kevin Mitchell give evidence to Parliament](#)

The Care Inspectorate's Chief Executive Peter Macleod and Executive Director of Scrutiny and Assurance, Kevin Mitchell, have given evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee as part of pre-budget scrutiny for 2021-22. Questions on the Care Inspectorate's statutory role, both in general terms and during COVID, were raised and Peter Macleod acknowledged the tragedy of the outbreak in Scotland and particularly its impact on the care sector. He said this must remain a focal point for the Care Inspectorate and would drive the organisation forward, actively learning lessons from the crisis. A range of topics were raised, including:

- the process involving clinical judgement and assessment by Health and Social Care Partnerships before patients were discharged to care homes
- the self-evaluation process, including questions on how families were involved, and how services received feedback
- improving the health and social care landscape and sustainability of the sector
- our role in joint inspections and expertise within the organisation to provide advice on business related matter
- the respective roles of improvement and enforcement in our work, and our involvement in both setting and moderating standards.

In relation to COVID-19, our response was set out in answers to the Committee's questions including how we changed contact levels and scrutiny models, the implementation of Red, Amber, Green notifications, and use of virtual technology to ensure we could continue examination of care settings.

[Research into psychological impact of lockdown on families of care home residents](#)

The University of Edinburgh and partners are conducting research into the psychological impact that lockdown restrictions have had on the families of care home residents. The project is a partnership of University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute, the University of the West of Scotland, the University of Strathclyde and Iriss. A survey has been created which focuses on emotional wellbeing and how the lockdown has impacted as a result of being unable to visit family members.

[Scottish Government data on COVID-19 in adult care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has published weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland, including information on the number of deaths reported to the Care Inspectorate. As at 26 August: 66 (6 per cent) adult care homes have a current



case of suspected COVID-19. There was one new positive COVID-19 case among care home residents for week 17 - 23 August.

[Care home restrictions imposed in Tayside](#)

Care Appointments has reported on the restrictions placed on care homes in Tayside after a rise in Covid-19 cases linked to the 2 Sisters factory and other localised cases in the area. The Tayside Incident Management Team said indoor visits to care homes, which were due to restart on Monday, would not be possible in the region given the ongoing management of the cluster.

[Scottish Care statement on care home visiting](#)

Scottish Care has issued a statement welcoming the recent announcement to increase the number of outdoor visitors and start indoor visits in care homes. Concerns have been raised about some care homes not receiving local sign off after submitting their plans or not being able to satisfy local risk assessment requirements. Scottish Care said they were working to address these issues at local level and set out five objectives they hoped would be met through joint working.

Disabilities

[Inequalities faced by disabled people 'supercharged' by COVID-19](#)

A report by the Glasgow Disability Alliance has highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on inequalities for people with disabilities. The report argues that the crisis has 'supercharged' the inequalities already faced by disabled people in Scotland. The report makes a number of recommendations to involve disabled people as the country moves forward, highlighting that "disabled people's voices will be vital to ensure Scotland's social and economic recovery leaves no one-behind".

[Study examines mortality rates of children and young people with learning disabilities](#)

A study into the mortality rates of children and young people with learning disabilities in Scotland has been published by the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory. The study found that: death in childhood 12 times higher for people with learning disabilities; girls and young women with learning disabilities are at higher risk than males; adults with learning disabilities are twice as likely to die from preventable illness; common causes of death are from nervous diseases (33%), followed by congenital (22%) and metabolic conditions (8%) and respiratory diseases (8%).

Infection Prevention and Control

[Chief Nursing Officer shares UK IPC guidance](#)

UK-wide infection prevention and control guidance has been issued jointly by the Department of Health and Social Care, Health Protection Scotland, Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England and NHS England. Chief Nursing Officer Fiona McQueen, has written to health and social care bodies to ask that health boards work towards implementing



the COVID-19 risk pathways as outlined in the guidance, with a view to going live w/c 7 September. The letter also confirms existing non-acute guidance in Scotland will be updated over the coming week to ensure that it aligns with the new UK remobilisation guidance. The Chief Nursing Officer expects the social care sector to start implementing the UK remobilisation guidance over the coming fortnight once the corresponding non-acute guidance in Scotland has been updated.

Older People

[Rural communities ageing quicker than cities, according to new statistics](#)

Rural and island communities in Scotland are ageing at a greater rate than those in cities, according to new statistics published by National Records of Scotland. The figures, which provide a breakdown of Scotland's population into almost 7,000 small geographical areas known as data zones, found that in Na h-Eileanan Siar, 94% of data zones became older in terms of median age over the last decade. In contrast, 44% of data zones in Dundee City became younger in terms of median age.

Other Health and Social Care

[SSSC publishes annual workforce data report](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council has published its latest annual workforce data report. The 2019 report shows that there are 206,400 people in the workforce, a rise of 0.8% since 2018 and approximately 7.8% of all Scottish employment, or one in 13 jobs. The increase has been driven mainly by increases to the day care of children sub-sector and with public provision. The three largest sub-sectors are housing support/care at home, care homes for adults and day care of children; together these account for almost 78% of the workforce. The median age of the workforce is highest in the public sector (47) and lowest in the private sector (41). Early years workers in the private sector have the lowest median age (28). The percentage of men working in the sector is 15%, although it is around double or greater that proportion in criminal justice and residential children's services.

[Jeane Freeman to stand down as MSP](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has announced she will not seek re-election to Holyrood in 2021, the BBC reports. Ms Freeman has served as an MSP since 2016, representing Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley. In that time, she has held the post of Social Security Minister and is currently the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport.

[Call for evidence on proposed child abuse redress legislation](#)

A parliamentary committee has launched a call for evidence on proposed legislation to introduce a system of financial payments to survivors of historical child abuse in care in Scotland. Introduced on 13 August 2020, the [Redress for Survivors \(Historical Child Abuse in Care\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) sets up a new independent public body, Redress Scotland, to make decisions about payments. The scheme replaces an interim scheme called the advance payment scheme, while the Bill allows organisations involved with residential care of children in the past to pay financial



contributions to the scheme. In return, survivors who accept a redress payment will have to agree not to take legal action against these organisations or the Scottish Government. The closing date for responses is 2 October.

[Accounts Commission tells Moray Council it must urgently improve services](#)

Moray Council must urgently improve its services, according to a Best Value report published by the Accounts Commission. The report notes a significant decline in services since a previous report in 2015, particularly in education, and calls for “decisive leadership” to make the required changes.

[Latest homelessness figures published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the annual update on homelessness statistics, covering 2019/20. There were

- 36,855 applications for homelessness assistance during the period; an increase of 84 on the previous year
- 31,333 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness; an increase of 1,097 (4%)
- 11,665 households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2020, an increase of 676 (6%), including 7,280 children, an increase of 485 (7%)
- 500 breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order, compared to 645 in 2018/19 - 375 of these were in Edinburgh.

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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