



Adult and Health

[COVID-19 – General](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Health](#)[Older People](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)

COVID-19 – General

[New restrictions announced by the First Minister](#)

New restrictions have been announced by the First Minister in an attempt to protect people from the spread of COVID-19. The measures include a ban on household visits (with exceptions for extended households, informal childcare and tradespeople), while a maximum of six people from two households can meet in outdoor spaces or public indoor spaces such as cafes, pubs and restaurants. All hospitality settings will be required to close at 10pm. People should also continue to work from home where practicable. The Prime Minister also made a statement [setting out new restrictions](#) for England.

[Update on guidance to remobilise residential respite services](#)

A letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and Minister for Children and Young People provides an update on guidance to support the remobilisation of stand-alone residential respite/short break facilities for both children and adults. Stand-alone residential respite for adults which is registered as a care home will continue to operate under care homes guidance. However, the admissions arrangements will be adjusted in the relevant guidance to remove the blanket requirement for respite guests to remain in their rooms and enable a more proportionate approach to breaks in these lower risk settings.



[Findings of public engagement exercise on Near Me](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted the findings of a public engagement exercise about the Near Me service. The Near Me video system, originally designed to serve rural communities, was scaled up from March to ensure patient and staff safety during the pandemic. Of 5,400 responses to the survey, 87% backed video consultations while 94% of clinicians favoured a digital first approach.

[Recommendations on COVID-19 and ethnicity made to Government](#)

Initial advice and recommendations have been made to the Scottish Government from the Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity. The paper on data and evidence deals with issues such as improving the accuracy and completeness of data on ethnicity in the health system, and whether there is a case for making the collection of health data on ethnicity mandatory. The paper on systemic issues makes wide ranging recommendations, including the establishment of an independent oversight commission.

[Paper on impact of COVID-19 on equality published](#)

A paper on the impact of COVID-19 on equality has been published by the Scottish Government. The research reviews emerging evidence across issues including health, education, safety and security, social and wellbeing, housing, digital and environmental. The findings highlight which groups are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, as well as Brexit, including socially-economically disadvantaged people, children and young people, older people, disabled people, people of minority ethnicities, and both women and men for varying reasons. The paper concludes that an intersectional approach to tackling these inequalities is essential.

[Report sets out human rights-based approach to COVID-19 recovery](#)

A report on how a human rights-based approach can support recovery from COVID-19 and the resulting control measures has been published by Public Health Scotland. The report is designed to help prevent negative impacts on health for the most marginalised people in our communities, and to reduce health inequalities.

[HIS publishes findings on lessons from COVID-19](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) has developed a learning system to understand how the health and social care system in Scotland has responded to COVID-19 and identify key learning for the future. The findings of this work have been published and are focused on three key themes: importance of trusting relationships; role of communities; and technology enabled services.

[SCIE sets out three priorities for social care beyond COVID-19 \(England\)](#)

Three priorities for the future of adult social care beyond the COVID-19 pandemic have been set out by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). SCIE calls for three 'shifts': from "hand-to-mouth to long-term and sustainable funding", in



investment away from remedial and acute services towards prevention, and from low to high pay, recognition and conditions for the workforce.

[Report sets out learning from first phase of pandemic and social care \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has published a report setting out learning from the first phase of the pandemic in informing recommendations to government and social care. Ahead of winter and a potential second phase, the Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce sets out what is required to increase resilience in the sector. Recommendations are made on PPE, testing, flu vaccination, workforce and family carers, funding, clinical support, movement of people between care and health settings, and inspection and regulation.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Plans to review and improve dementia design announced](#)

The Dementia Centre at the University of Stirling has announced plans to review and expand the Dementia Design Audit Tool as part of plans to improve design assessment for ageing and dementia. The original audit tool was published in 2008. Since then senior researchers published a systematic review of literature in this area, which will be used to ensure the tool is better able to support environmental assessment and design processes, across many more types of environment.

[Government summary of psychoactive medication guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a communication which summarises and reinforces current guidance on the prescribing and review of psychoactive medication for people with dementia in care settings.

[Guidance on dementia care during pandemic updated](#)

The Care Inspectorate has updated the Dementia care during COVID-19 pandemic resource to take account of recent changes in guidance and good practice. The document covers a range of issues relating to practice during the pandemic and sets out relevant changes to legislation and useful links.

[Call for named worker for every family with a loved one in a care home](#)

A named health worker for every family with a loved one in a care home is among a series of calls for action by Alzheimer Scotland Chief Executive Henry Simmons. In a blog marking World Alzheimer's Day, Mr Simmons also calls for an end to blanket area-wide bans on visiting, a dedicated post diagnostic support fund and an increase in the nursing care element of free personal and nursing care payments.

[NES Psychology of Dementia webinar \(7 October\)](#)

A webinar to launch a new educational resource developed by the NHS Education for Scotland (NES) Psychology of Dementia team will take place on 7 October. Caring for a Person Living with behavioural variant Frontotemporal



Dementia (bvFTD) is a series of resources specifically developed for those caring for a person living with bvFTD. The webinar will detail how the resource can be used and provide an opportunity for Q&A.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Confirmation that measures do not impose new restrictions on care home visiting](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has confirmed that the new measures announced by the First Minister do not impose new restrictions on care home visiting. Responding to questioning in Parliament, Ms Freeman said part of the thinking behind the new restrictions was with a view to protecting care home visiting, adding that work is underway to explore how to increase the length and frequency of visits.

[Care Inspectorate reports on care at home and housing support during pandemic](#)

A report on the delivery of care at home and housing support services during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by the Care Inspectorate. The report follows an inquiry into responses to the pandemic in relation to these services across all health and social care partnerships in Scotland. The report includes a range of findings on workforce issues, the need for better support for carers, the impact of social isolation on people experiencing care, collaborative working between HSCPs and service providers, and the requirement for providers to provide information to a range of agencies. The Care Inspectorate identifies key issues that warrant further consideration or follow-up action as we move through remobilisation and recovery phases, making 16 recommendations.

[Interim guidance on extended use of face masks published](#)

The Scottish Government has published interim guidance on the extended use of medical face masks by staff within residential healthcare settings such as acute adult (inc. mental health) and community hospitals and care homes. The guidance also contains advice for visitors to care homes and hospitals, including those attending for an appointment.

[Care home views sought ahead of testing system move](#)

Care home providers and managers have been invited to provide feedback as a system is developed to move care home staff testing in Scotland from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) portal to NHS Laboratory resources. Feedback is sought on experience of using the current DHSC system and to suggest improvements that could be made.

[Stirling University-led project gets funding to improve palliative care in care homes](#)

A project designed to improve end-of-life care in UK care homes has been awarded £600,000 from the National Institute for Health Research. Led by Dr Liz Forbat of the University of Stirling, the study will focus on six specialist palliative care services in Scotland and England, conducting interviews and running workshops to co-design 'Needs Rounds' system with care home clinicians. The results will be shared with



care homes, residents, relatives, and GPs, as well as with specialists across the sector. The team also aims to develop an implementation package to provide all the tools and resources required to adopt the system.

Health and Nursing

[Latest Healthcare Associated Infection Annual Report published](#)

The latest Healthcare Associated Infections Annual Report has been published by Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland. The report details the work undertaken on healthcare associated infection (HCAI) prevention and reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) during 2019, while also providing data to inform local and national HCAI reduction activities.

[RCN Scotland Director to retire](#)

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) Scotland Director Theresa Fyffe has announced that she will retire early next year. Ms Fyffe has led RCN Scotland for 14 years following senior nursing posts within NHS Tayside and Scottish Government.

[King's Fund review explores how to better support nurses and midwives across UK](#)

A review investigating how to support nurses and midwives across the UK to deliver high-quality care has been published by the King's Fund. The report sets out right recommendations aimed at meeting three 'core work needs': autonomy, belonging and contribution.

Older People

[Concern over expansion of digital GP appointments](#)

Age Scotland has raised concerns about the impact of virtual GP consultations on older people, after the Scottish Government [highlighted](#) the success of and support for digital consultations through Near Me technology. The charity said the introduction of widespread digital GP consultations was understandable during the pandemic but noted hundreds of thousands of older people still do not use the internet and telephone consultations are also viewed as too impersonal for many, urging GPs and the Scottish Government to ensure availability of in-person appointments for older patients who need them.

Other Health and Social Care

[CCPS Annual Review](#)

The Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) has published its Annual Review for 2019/20. The document reflects on the organisation's key strands of work prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 in March. CCPS said the pandemic has added further challenges and complexity to its existing work programme, with many workstreams still on hold, and is still processing the impact of the crisis.



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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.