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## COVID-19 – General

### [Five-level restriction system set out in new strategic framework](#)

A new strategic framework setting out new protection measures for suppressing COVID-19 has been published by the Scottish Government. The strategy identifies five levels of intervention which could be imposed locally or nationally, depending on the prevalence of the virus, ranging from close to normality in level zero, to similar to a full lockdown in level four. Local authority areas have since been [notified](#) as to which protection level they will have to adhere to from 2 November.

### [Face covering exemption card launched](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a face covering exemption card, to support people who are unable to wear one in public spaces. The exemption card is branded with the Healthier Scotland and NHS Scotland logos under the FACTS for a Safer Scotland campaign. Everyone over the age of 5 who can do so is legally obliged to wear a face covering where it is mandated by law.

### [Winter preparedness plan developed for NHS](#)

A winter preparedness plan has been developed for NHS Scotland by the Scottish Government. It sets out, at a high level, the broad context and priorities for the NHS until March 2021 for emergency, urgent and routine care, as well as vaccinations, Test and Protect and support for the public and staff. An Adult Social Care Winter plan will be published in early November.



### [Review of testing strategy published](#)

A review of the Scottish Government's testing strategy has been published by clinical and scientific leads. The review said testing turnaround times and capacity must be the priority, advised that routine testing should be expanded to protect those at high risk, and suggested Scotland was on course to increase overall capacity to 65,000 tests per day by winter. To increase capacity, three regional laboratory hubs are being opening in November and December. Their priority will be testing care home staff and resilience for health boards throughout winter.

### [PPE action plan published by Scottish Government](#)

A Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) action plan has been launched by the Scottish Government. The plan covers health, social care and other settings where COVID-19 could put people at risk, outlining how the government plans to work with partners to develop a sustainable supply chain of PPE, with a special focus on winter planning.

### [Antibody response to COVID-19 reduces over time, study finds](#)

Results from a COVID-19 testing programme have suggested the antibody response to COVID-19 reduces over time following infection. The Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI study, published by the UK Government, found that the number of people with antibodies fell by 26.5% over three months between June and September. The results show antibody response over time varies depending on a person's age and symptoms and suggests that people who did not show symptoms are likely to lose detectable antibodies sooner than those who did show symptoms. It remains unclear whether antibodies provide any effective level of immunity.

## **Child Protection**

### [First national study of CSE of children in hearings system published](#)

A research report has been published by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and Barnardo's Scotland on sexual exploitation of children (CSE) in the Children's Hearings System. The national study confirms CSE cases were identified in 27 of Scotland's 32 local authorities. Both boys and girls were found to be victims of sexual and exploitation, but girls were more likely to be recognised as victims. The study also found that unlike other parts of the UK, in Scotland this type of abuse is not necessarily being committed by organised groups and networks. Perpetrators were more likely to operate alone, including family members and those described as older boy or girlfriends. Barnardo's published a separate [policy report](#).

## **Children's Rights**

### [Call for UNCRC Bill to ensure all young people are informed on rights](#)

Jenny Miller and Charlie Macmillan, CEOs of PAMIS and SCLD respectively, have written a blog calling for a duty to be included in the UN Convention on the Rights of



the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Bill to ensure that children and young people with protected characteristics (including learning/intellectual disabilities) are educated and informed about their rights and how to make complaints. PAMIS and SCLD believe this duty will need to be accompanied by financial resources to allow those working with children and young people to implement UNCRC awareness raising programmes.

#### [Children and Young People's Commissioner publishes annual report](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published its annual report. The report covers the period from April 2019 until the end of March 2020, covering issues such as UNCRC incorporation, equal protection for children from physical assault and raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility.

#### [Report on rights of older children in justice system](#)

The Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland has published a report on older children in conflict with the law. The report looks at children's contact with the justice system because they are believed to have committed a crime, and asks if Scots law protects these children's human rights. The research also focuses on whether the treatment of these children complies with the UNCRC.

### **Early Learning and Childcare**

#### [Care Inspectorate contacts ELC providers ahead of winter](#)

Care Inspectorate Chief Executive Peter Macleod has written to early learning and childcare (ELC) providers about winter planning, setting out how scrutiny activity will continue through virtual or on-site inspections. The letter also highlights a self-evaluation tool for ELC. Concerns are highlighted following scrutiny interventions, contact with services and information from local public health teams, including those on infection prevention and control, care of children in consistent groups and staff knowledge of national guidance.

#### [Guidance and funding support for soft play](#)

The Scottish Government has committed to producing guidance for soft play centres for when it is safe for them to reopen. The guidance has been developed in partnership with clinical experts, regulators, trade unions and industry representatives. It was announced this week that centres, which have been closed since March, would be able to apply for a one-off grant through the COVID-19 Contingency Fund.

#### [Survey of childcare providers published \(England\)](#)

The Department for Education has published the findings of a survey of early learning and childcare providers on COVID-19. The research covers operating models, attendance, workforce and financial sustainability.



## Justice

### [SCRA Annual Report published](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration has published its annual report for 2019/20. The report includes some of the SCRA's highlights and achievements in 2019/20 and information about some of the key stories from the past 12 months.

### [CYCJ Director stepping down](#)

Claire Lightowler has announced her resignation as Director of the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice. She is to step down in April 2021, after seven years in the role.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Report on impact of COVID-19 on care leavers](#)

The Scottish Care Leavers Covenant Alliance has published a briefing paper on supporting care leavers during COVID-19, as part of Care Experienced Week. The paper highlights how the pandemic has exacerbated the precariousness of many care leavers' situations and outlines concerns about support and services. Key priority areas are digital inclusion, continuing care, housing and accommodation, mental health and relationship-based practice. The Alliance is a partnership between CELCIS, A Way Home Scotland, Barnardo's Scotland, CYCJ, Life Changes Trust, Staf, and Who Cares? Scotland.

### [Chair of Independent Care Review highlights ongoing work](#)

Fiona Duncan, Chair of The Promise, has written for the Scotsman on the importance of ensuring the messages of the Independent Care Review (which Ms Duncan also chaired) continue to be a priority for Scotland. The Promise is the body responsible for ensuring the findings of the review are implemented. In the article, Ms Duncan says the work of change that the review asked Scotland to undertake in February remains the same despite the pandemic.

## Other

### [New CEO announced for Iriss](#)

Dee Fraser has been appointed Chief Executive of Iriss and will take up the position on 26 November. She is currently Deputy Director at the Coalition of Care of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS).

### [Iriss evidence overview on carers' mental and physical health](#)

An overview of evidence relating to carers' mental and physical health has been published by Iriss. The overview concludes that a carer's mental and physical health will have a significant impact upon their ability to provide support for the person they



care for and raises concern at the high numbers of carers who think their physical and mental health will limit or remove altogether their ability to care.

### **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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