



Adult
and
Health



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COVID-19 General

[Latest ONS infection survey results published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the most recent Office for National Statistics (ONS) infection survey results. It was estimated between 10 and 23 October the percentage of the population in Scotland testing positive for the coronavirus was 0.71%. In the same 14-day period, it is estimated that an average of 37,400 people in Scotland had COVID-19.

[Guidelines on the management of Long COVID published](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) have published guidelines on the management of the long-term effects of COVID-19. The guidelines define post-COVID syndrome (also known as Long COVID) as symptoms that develop during or following an infection consistent with COVID-19, which continue for more than 12 weeks and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis.



[Report highlights innovation in person-centred care during pandemic](#)

A report on what has enabled good practice in the health and social care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) in partnership with the Scottish Social Services Council and Care Inspectorate. HIS recently invited health and social care workers to share their experiences during the pandemic and the report provides an insight into how person-centred care in health and social care services has adapted to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and related public health measures.

[UK testing capacity reaches half a million](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has announced that the UK's daily coronavirus testing capacity surpassed 500,000 on Saturday 31 October, with 519,770 undertaken.

[Furlough scheme extended until end of March](#)

The UK Government's furlough scheme will be extended until the end of March, Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced. The scheme will pay up to 80% of a person's wage up to £2,500 a month to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The announcement comes after Prime Minister Boris Johnson [confirmed](#) new national restrictions in England beginning on 5 November.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[New quality frameworks for support services published](#)

The **Care Inspectorate** has published the new quality frameworks for support services (care at home, including supported living models of support). Reflecting Scotland's Health and Social Care Standards, the primary purpose of the framework is to support services to self-evaluate their own performance. It will also be used by our inspectors to provide independent assurance about the quality of care and support. As a result of the pandemic, have added an additional key question to the framework. Key Question 7 focuses on 'how good is our care and support during the COVID-19 pandemic?'.

[Final report of the medicine improvement project published](#)

We know that the management of medicines in care homes for older people, and its effect on resident's health and welfare, remains a concern. In response to this, the **Care Inspectorate**, with the help of Scottish Care, undertook a project with 10 care homes, aiming to reduce medicines issues using quality improvement tools. The report noted that the homes' commitment to improve was reflected in their positive relationships with each other and the Care Inspectorate. All homes embraced the use of data over time to drive forward behavioural and system change, and most homes reduced defined medicines issues by a significant amount, despite the interrupted nature of the project.



[Root cause analysis into COVID outbreaks in four care homes published](#)

The Scottish Government has published the report of a review into the circumstances surrounding the occurrence and transmission of COVID-19 infection within four care homes in Scotland. The review was commissioned as a rapid investigation on Monday 12 October and submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for Health on 30 October. Sources of information used in the review included Care Inspectorate statutory inspection reports, safety huddle data, interviews and evidence from international research.

A number of recommendations were made by the review team, with the following relating to inspection arrangements:

- Undertake a thorough review of the joint inspection process to ensure a truly integrated approach to inspection in care homes is in place.
- Ensure that relevant professional national infection prevention and control (IPC) expertise is at the centre of the process, to provide a consistent level of expertise and support.
- At present the operation of the wider company structure is outwith the scope of Care Inspectorate scrutiny, and consideration should be given to extending its remit to corporate entities.

[Adult Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2020/21 published](#)

The Scottish Government has set out the measures already in place that must be retained and those that need to be introduced across the adult social care sector over winter 2020 to 2021 in a new winter preparedness plan. The plan, which is centred around four key principles, includes the following key points:

- New clinical guidance for care homes and community care would be issued to support existing infection prevention and control (IPC) measures – supported by £7m to provide increased IPC nursing support and training for social care providers.
- A checklist of symptoms would be published to assist in preventing the virus from entering care homes, early identification of cases and prevention of transmission.
- Minimising the movement of staff would be supported by £50m additional funding.
- Based on the PHS analysis, testing requirements for homes will remain and must be followed.
- The reintroduction of health and care services to improve the mental wellbeing of residents, enabled by testing for these individuals being implemented “over the coming weeks”.
- Visiting guidance will be reviewed, testing for designated visitors introduced and more localised decisions taken based on the strategic framework.



- Continued improvements of weekly testing by transitioning to processing them at NHS labs. Prioritising testing for care at home staff as capacity allows. This was to be phased in starting with areas of high prevalence.

The government has also announced that £112m will be provided to support the plans, bringing this year's total extra allocation for social care to £262m. An [evidence paper](#) has been published to provide context and the rationale for actions.

[Scottish Conservative debate on care homes](#)

The Scottish Conservatives have led a debate on care homes during which the party has called for an immediate public inquiry into what happened in care homes during the pandemic. The debate motion raises concern about the Public Health Scotland analysis on the transfer of COVID-19 positive patients to care homes. Scottish Labour's amendment also supports a public inquiry, suggesting that it should take a human rights approach and also consider the role of Scottish Government guidance in relation to COVID-19 outbreaks in care homes.

[Providing care and support at home to people who have had COVID-19 \(England\)](#)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has published a guide to help home care workers and personal assistants to provide safe care and support to people who have left hospital after having COVID-19. The quick guide looks at three areas: physical impact, for instance, heart and diabetes care, psychological and social impact, including mental capacity, and getting the basics right with infection control.

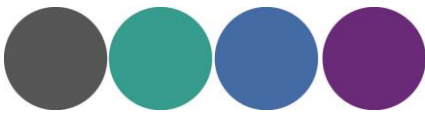
[Updated guidance on working safely in care homes \(England\)](#)

Public Health England has updated its guidance on working safely in care homes, particularly the use of gloves.

Disability

[SCLD highlight data collection gap for people with learning disabilities](#)

The Scottish Commission for Learning Disability (SCLD) has published a briefing paper, urging the Scottish Government and other public bodies to collect and report appropriate data in order to implement policies that consider the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. SCLD say the COVID pandemic has brought to light inequalities in how people with learning disabilities are treated, including a lack of adequate data on how COVID is affecting people with a learning disability. This in turn has meant it has been difficult to accurately report the death rate of people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



Mental Health

[Updated Advice Note](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission (MWC) has updated their Advice Note on COVID-19 for practitioners who are using the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act when caring for patients.

Older People

[Supporting older people living with sight loss](#)

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) have published a series of podcasts for those who support older people living with sight loss, people with sight loss and professionals working in the field of complex needs – both in a home or care setting.

There are three different podcast series, focusing on:

- [eye health and sight loss advice](#) (for older people, people with complex needs and people with dementia)
- [apps that can help support people with sight loss](#)
- [stroke and vision changes](#)

[Helpline offers free nutrition checks](#)

Age Scotland are highlighting the free nutrition checks available from their Helpline, in collaboration with Eat Well Age Well, for older people, their relatives or neighbours. Advisors will recommend changes to improve diet and nutrition, assist with accessing food deliveries or put people in contact with local volunteers.

Other Health and Social Care

[Report highlights good practice](#)

A report has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) in partnership with the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and Care Inspectorate, providing a summary of the key learning about what has enabled good practice in the health and social care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. HIS recently invited health and social care workers to share their experiences during the pandemic and the report provides an insight into understanding how person-centred care in health and social care services has adapted to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and related public health measures.

[Guidance on Open Badges published](#)

The SSSC has published guidance for social services managers to help workers get the most from their learning activity through ten top tips. The SSSC note that the



Open Badges have been very popular in recent months, with many social service workers visiting the website for the first time.

[New continuous professional learning requirement for SSSC registered workers](#)

The SSSC has launched the new continuous professional learning (CPL) requirement for SSSC registered workers. The CPL guidance sets out in six easy steps how registered workers can now log their learning in a way that suits them while also confirming whether they have completed their learning when they renew their registration.

[Launch of Absent Friends festival](#)

[Scottish Care](#) has highlighted the launch of the Absent Friends festival, running from Sunday 1 November until Saturday 7 November. The festival will highlight bereavement and support the cause by launching a cookbook collection of recipes from those loved and lost.

[New delayed discharge figures published](#)

Public Health Scotland has provided a monthly update on the number of bed days associated with delayed discharges and the number of discharges which followed a period of delay. In September of this year, 32,929 days were spent in hospital by people whose discharge was delayed. The average number of beds occupied per day due to delayed discharges was 1,098, which was an increase of 5% compared to August 2020.

Other

[SPSO annual reports and accounts published](#)

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) has published its 2019-20 annual report and accounts. The report was laid before Scottish Parliament on Friday 30 October and details the progress made ahead of the launch of the Independent National Whistleblowing Officer.

[Consultation on transitions for people with additional support needs](#)

A consultation for anyone with additional support needs between the ages of 14-25 has been highlighted by the ALLIANCE. The survey has been designed by the Scottish Transitions Forum young leader's team the Divergent Influencers and is designed to get a better understanding of the issues affecting young people in Scotland and to help develop a draft national framework to improve transitions for young people with additional support needs.



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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