

Adult
and
Health



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COVID-19 – General

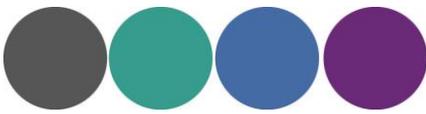
[Local authority protection levels updated](#)

In a statement to the Scottish Parliament, the First Minister has updated the protection levels for local authority areas, including moving 11 areas into the highest Level 4 and introducing travel restrictions into law to prevent travel outside Level 3 and 4 areas except for an essential purpose. The changes to protection levels will come into effect at 6pm this Friday (20 November) and will remain in place for three weeks until Friday 11 December.

[Weekly COVID-19 stats published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 15 November, 65,134 individuals had been recorded in the contact tracing software, leading to 179,740 unique contacts being traced. There had been 81,967 confirmed cases, with 7,685 in the latest week. In the week ending 15 November, there were 494 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 47 patients were treated in intensive care.

PHS has also published [Hospital onset COVID-19 cases in Scotland](#). There have been 8,817 confirmed cases in the week ending Sunday 25 October, of which 116 were reported as definite hospital onset.



[Megalabs to open 2021 to add to testing capacity](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has confirmed that two 'megalabs' will open in early 2021 in Leamington Spa and Scotland to add to daily testing capacity. The labs will also support the diagnostic capabilities for critical illness including cancer, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.

[Walkthrough COVID-19 testing site opens in Perth](#)

The UK Government has opened a new walk-through COVID-19 testing site in Perth. Provided as part of a drive to improve the accessibility of testing for local communities, the centre aims to be accessible for people without a car.

[Update on priority for delivery of COVID-19 vaccines.](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport has updated the Scottish Parliament on the safe delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, outlining that health and social care workers, older care home residents and people over 80 years old will be prioritised for vaccination.

[Vaccine reportedly effective in 94% of adults over 65 years old](#)

The BBC reports that more data from the continuing phase three trial of the COVID-19 vaccine being developed by Pfizer and BioNTech suggests that it is effective in protecting 94% of adults over 65 years old.

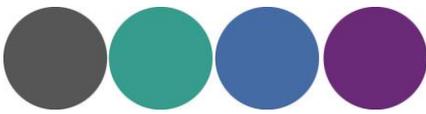
The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has published a [statement on the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#). It outlines the approval process for a potential coronavirus vaccine and assures it will only be approved for use once it has met robust standards on safety, effectiveness and quality through clinical trials.

[Film illustrates importance of ventilation in preventing spread of COVID-19](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has released a film showing how Coronavirus lingers in enclosed spaces to illustrate the importance of ventilation in homes to prevent the spread of infected particles of COVID-19. Research shows that being in a room with fresh air can reduce your risk of infection from particles by over 70%, as fresh air dilutes the particle, and experts recommend either opening windows for short, sharp bursts of 10 to 15 minutes regularly throughout the day, or to leave windows open a small amount continuously.

[Update on review into how Do Not Resuscitate orders used during the pandemic \(England\)](#)

An inquiry into how Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) orders have been used during the COVID-19 pandemic is being conducted by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The review will take a national view of how these decisions were made in and across different types of services – including hospitals, GPs and care homes. The CQC are



currently analysing what they know so far, and an interim report is expected later this year.

Alzheimers/Dementia

[Campaign launches to highlight issues around sport and dementia](#)

The Alzheimer's Society has launched Sport United Against Dementia to highlight the issues around sport and dementia, following the rise in debate about the link between the risk of developing dementia and playing contact sports or heading footballs. The campaign is calling for more research into the links between sport and dementia, to provide more answers and better understand the potential impact of heading footballs and playing contact sports.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Update on care home visiting](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman has provided an update on care home visiting following the publication of the Strategic Framework and corresponding five protection levels. The letter sets out visiting options against each of the five levels.

[Fund for digital devices](#)

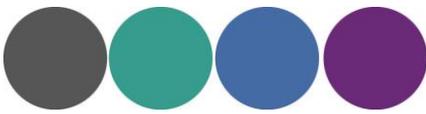
The Scottish Government has announced funding of £1 million to provide care homes with digital devices to help care home residents to stay connect with friends and relatives, and support the clinical management of health conditions remotely. All care homes in Scotland will be able to apply for up to two iPads to support their residents, which follows a pilot project that provided digital devices to six care homes in Aberdeenshire to address digital exclusion, supported by Scottish Care, the Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

[Latest weekly data on COVID-19 in care homes](#)

The latest weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes has been published by the Scottish Government. During the week beginning 9 November, there were 159 care homes with active confirmed COVID-19 cases and 79 confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

[Pilot for regular testing of family visitors to care homes \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health and Social Care has announced that a testing pilot will be launched to allow family members or friends of those living in care homes to access regular testing enable indoor visitors. Care homes across Hampshire, Cornwall and Devon will test the new system which will see a designated visitor given access to tests to support meaningful indoor visits without a screen to take place.



[Scheme for discharges from hospital into designated COVID-19 settings \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) are working with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), local authorities and individual care providers to provide assurance of safe and high-quality care in designated settings, which are part of a scheme to allow people with a COVID-positive diagnosis to be discharged safely from hospitals. This scheme should allow for COVID-positive people to receive the care they need and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in care homes.

[Report into how care homes managed infection prevention and control during the pandemic \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published a report into how care homes managed infection prevention and control (IPC) during the COVID-19 pandemic, basing their findings on their programme of IPC inspections in 301 care homes in August and a review of 139 IPC risk-based inspections between August and September. Amongst other findings, the CQC has found the two areas with the most gaps in assurance are the effective use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and having up-to-date policies.

The CQC has also published the [fifth in their Insight series of reports](#) into learning from the pandemic, on IPC in care homes, the experiences of hospital inpatients during the early stage of the pandemic, and an update of their regular data.

Older People

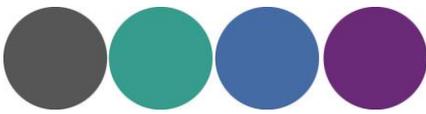
[Concerns related to use of Do Not Resuscitate' orders](#)

Age Scotland are highlighting concerns they have received from family members whose older relatives were reportedly “either forced to sign a DNAR, despite lacking the mental capacity to do so, or found a DNAR among their belongings after being discharged from hospital.” A parliamentary inquiry is being called for by Age Scotland to discover the extent of this issue.

Other Health and Social Care

[Guidance to recognise signs of ill-treatment or wilful neglect](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) and the Care Inspectorate have published guidance, ‘Wilful neglect, ill-treatment and corporate homicide Guidance for social service workers, providers, managers, supervisors, social workers and social work students’, to support workers and providers to recognise potential signs of ill-treatment or wilful neglect, when an offence may have occurred and how and who you should report this to. Both care providers and registered workers have responsibilities to be alert to the signs of when an offence may have occurred and a responsibility to report. The guidance provides examples of workers’ and providers’ actions which may be considered wilful neglect or ill-treatment of an adult receiving support.



Other

[Employment and career progression for minority ethnic communities](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Equalities and Human Rights Committee has published a report of their inquiry into what actions are being taken to make sure minority ethnic communities have parity of employment and career progression. Amongst other recommendations, the report calls for more use of "positive actions" to address under-representation of minority ethnic communities in the public sector workforce, and new regulations to require public bodies to publish their ethnicity pay gap, with an action plan to deliver identified outcomes with associated timescales.

[Nominations open for Scottish Apprenticeship Awards 2020](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) are publicising the opening of nominations for the Scottish Apprenticeship Awards 2020. The Scottish Apprenticeship Awards recognise the hard work and commitment of apprentices and shine a spotlight on the employers and training providers who champion apprenticeships. The closing date for nominating is 12.00pm on Wednesday 25 November.

[Questions for interview with Chief Executive of Care Inspectorate](#)

The ALLIANCE are asking their members and wider stakeholders to send in questions for the Care Inspectorate's Chief Executive Peter MacLeod ahead of their interview. To pose a question to Peter, please contact live@alliance-scotland.org.uk by Tuesday 8th December by 12pm.

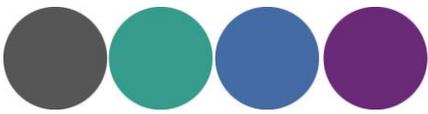
Disclaimer

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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