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COVID-19 - General

[Eleven councils enter level 4 restrictions until 11 December](#)

The First Minister has updated the various COVID-19 restrictions across Scotland, with 11 councils entering level 4 restrictions. From Friday, much of the west of Scotland will be placed in level 4 and these restrictions are expected to last until Friday 11 December. East Lothian and Midlothian will remain in level 3 until Tuesday 24 November when they will move to level 2. Other areas will remain in the same level as they are currently in. Restrictions around outdoor socialising for those in level 1 are to be extended to allow eight people from three households to meet outdoors. Children in the shielding category in level 4 areas should not attend school in person. Nicola Sturgeon also announced that travel restrictions will be put into law to prevent people who live in a level 3 or level 4 local authority area from travelling outside their local authority except for an essential purpose.

[Call for parents of children with complex needs to receive vaccine first](#)

Disability charity Kindred is calling for parents of children with complex disabilities to be prioritised for a COVID-19 vaccine once it becomes available. In a letter to Health Secretary Jeane Freeman and Deputy First Minister John Swinney, the charity said parents fear catching the virus and being unable to look after their vulnerable children.



[Latest COVID-19 statistical report](#)

Public Health Scotland 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. 717 people aged 5-17 tested positive.

Child Protection

[Campaign launched to tackle abuse in lockdown](#)

The UK Government has teamed up with children's charities to launch a new campaign to protect victims of child abuse. The campaign has been launched as further pandemic restrictions take effect in England. The Home Office, NSPCC, Barnardo's and the Children's Society are encouraging young people to recognise different forms of abuse, report it and get help. It follows evidence suggesting that young people faced a greater risk of sexual abuse, criminal exploitation and domestic abuse due to the impact of coronavirus.

Disability

[Scottish Child Disability Benefit applications to open from next summer](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the Child Disability Benefit will be the next new benefit to be introduced by Social Security Scotland. Social Security Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said Social Security Scotland will start taking applications from summer 2021 as part of a pilot, ahead of a full roll-out from autumn 2021. The Payment will replace the DWP's Disability Living Allowance for Children.

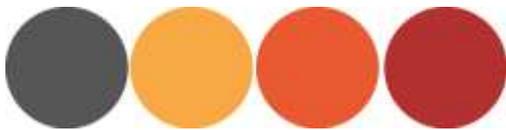
Early Learning and Childcare

[Out of school care framework consultation – summary report](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary report of the 2019 consultation on the draft framework for Out of School Care in Scotland. It will inform the final Framework and provide evidence for future development of School Age Childcare policy. The Scottish Government ran a public consultation to invite feedback on the draft Out of School Care Framework. The consultation period ran for 14 weeks between 30 August and 6 December 2019.

[SOSCN online event to tackle barriers to outdoor play](#)

The Scottish Out of School Care Network (SOSCN) will hold an online discussion event on outdoor play on 2 December. The body has reflected on the findings of its recent ELC reopening survey, which suggested more services are providing outdoor play opportunities on a daily basis. The event aims to highlight how settings can



overcome potential barriers to outdoor play and accessing green space as we move into the winter months.

[Funding for early years obesity prevention projects](#)

Ten projects have received funding from the Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland to promote healthy eating and prevent and reduce obesity in early years. The projects, located around Scotland, have been awarded a share of over £600,000 of funding, part of the Scottish Government's ambition to halve childhood obesity by 2030 and significantly reduce diet-related health inequalities.

Education

[COVID-19 evidence paper on schools](#)

An evidence paper has been produced by the COVID-19 Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues, looking at the risks posed by the virus to pupils and staff and the benefits to children and young people of schools remaining open. The paper suggests the rate of coronavirus-related sickness among pupils is low across Scotland, at around 0.1% of pupils at 12 November. There was no direct evidence that transmission of the virus within schools plays a significant role in driving rates of infection among children. Meanwhile the evidence suggests closing schools would present a serious risk of harm to the wellbeing of children and young people, particularly those who are vulnerable.

[Wellbeing support provided to teachers](#)

An update is provided on the work of Education Scotland and the General Teaching Council for Scotland in co-creating professional learning and wellbeing support. Barnardo's Scotland and Place2Be are offering two forms of support to school staff, coaching and mentoring programmes are being provided and further support is available for teachers in their first four years post-probation.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Guidance on welfare assessments for those experiencing continuing care](#)

A practice note on welfare assessments for young people experiencing continuing care has been issued by the Care Inspectorate, CELCIS and Clan Childlaw. The joint guidance includes the legal framework and what needs to be considered and covered in a welfare assessment. The guidance also emphasises the importance of the young person's involvement in their entitlement to advocacy, if it's required.

Mental Health

[Study highlights impact of lockdown on mental health in children \(England\)](#)

A study by Co-SPACE, reported by Nursery World, has highlighted the impact of the first lockdown on the mental health of primary-school aged children in England.



Between March and June 2020 behavioural and attention difficulties increased while most children were not attending school. These generally decreased from July when home schooling demands reduced for the summer holidays and as children returned to school in September.

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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