




Adult and Health



[COVID-19 - General](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

COVID-19 - General

[Vaccination programme to start](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has confirmed that the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech has been authorised for use in the UK, and the Scottish Government has advised that deliveries of the first COVID-19 vaccine to Scotland are expected next week, with injections being given from Tuesday 8 December. Those giving the vaccination to others will receive the injection first. The programme will then follow the independent advice received from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), which recommends prioritising those with the greatest clinical need - including those aged over 80, and health and social care workers.

[Toolkit to help with student placements](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has published a toolkit of information for providers, students and centres to support the safe return of students to placements. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, many students have been unable to begin the practice elements of the HNC Social Services and HNC Childhood Practice courses. This toolkit provides guidance and links to more information to support the safe completion of the placement element where possible.



COVID-19

[Advice for employers on 'test, trace, isolate, support' strategy](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance on 'Test and Protect', including advice for employers and employees working in health and social care settings, and non-healthcare settings, on the 'test, trace, isolate, support' strategy.

[Asymptomatic testing site opens](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that the first community testing site for asymptomatic people, without symptoms, has opened in Johnstone, Renfrewshire. The site aims to test residents using lateral flow devices, with results in around 45 minutes, and any positive cases will then be confirmed by PCR test.

[Latest data on COVID-19](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 29 November, there had been 94,998 confirmed cases, with 5,779 in the latest week. In the week ending 29 November, there were 463 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 43 patients were treated in intensive care. 489 people aged 5-17 tested positive.

[Review of DNACPR decision during the pandemic \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published an interim report on its review of Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions during the COVID-19 pandemic. The report sets out their progress and expectations arounds DNACPR, including early findings that at the beginning of the pandemic, a combination of unprecedented pressure on care providers and other issues may have led to decisions concerning DNACPR being incorrectly conflated with other clinical assessments around critical care.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Data on COVID-19 in care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has published weekly data on COVID-19 in adult social care. It shows in the week ending Sunday 29 November the number of care home residents with confirmed COVID-19 was 2,436; an 8.8% decrease compared to the previous week. In the same period, 96 deaths were registered with confirmed COVID-19, which represented 30% of all care home deaths reported to the Care Inspectorate.

[Testing for designated visitors](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman has written to the Scottish Parliament's Health & Sport Committee with an update on the plans to prioritise further testing for COVID-19 across adult social care, including designated visitors to care homes. Ms Freeman also updates that following a review



of the care home closure period following an outbreak, the period will be reduced from 28 days to 14 days from the last date of COVID-19 symptoms, subject to a Health Protection Team assessment and confirmation of safety.

[First findings for impact of COVID-19 on families with relatives in care homes](#)

The Centre for Research on Families and Relationships has made available a video of a recent event on the first findings of a project investigating the impact of COVID-19 on families with relatives in care homes. The 'impact of covid on care home relatives' project is led by George Palattiyil Senior Lecturer of Social Work, School of Social and Political Science at the University of Edinburgh and is funded by the Chief Scientist Office. It also involves the University's Usher Institute, the University of the West of Scotland, the University of Strathclyde and the Institute for Research & Innovation in Social Service.

Disabilities

[Including international human rights of disabled people in law](#)

The ALLIANCE and Inclusion Scotland has published a report on including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People (CRPD) in Scots law. The report identifies and compares the benefits of different models of incorporation, and expresses their support for incorporation as a means to ensure that people's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

[Call for priority vaccinations for people with learning/intellectual disabilities](#)

The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD) has published a position statement outlining the human rights case on why people with learning disabilities should be prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccine in the earlier waves of its delivery. The SCLD states that, "It has become clear from UK-wide data that people with a learning/intellectual disability are disproportionately at risk from, and affected by, the COVID-19 virus" and that if they are not prioritised for the vaccine this could risk violating their human rights.

Mental Health

[Annual report for Commission](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its annual report for 2019-20, highlighting visits to wards and services, monitoring the use of legislation, and law reform.

[Updated guidance for people who use mental health and other services](#)

Advice offering guidance and contact information on the coronavirus situation for people who use mental health, learning disability and dementia services and for their family or carers, has been published by the Mental Welfare Commission. The guidance gives information on current practice with visiting people in hospital or care homes, and discusses the new emergency legislation that is in place but has not yet



come into use, as well as giving a number of contacts for support and information, including contact information for the Commission's own advice line.

Other Health and Social Care

[New features for registration portal](#)

The Care Inspectorate has added two new features to our online registration portal to request advice before applying to register a service, and to copy a previously submitted application. These features are now available to use.

[Bonus payment for health and social care staff](#)

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport Jeane Freeman has written to the Scottish Parliament's Health & Sport Committee about a one-off bonus payment to be made to health and social care staff. The letter sets out the staff who will receive a payment of £500 in recognition of their efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Auditor's report on NHS Tayside](#)

Audit Scotland has published a report on the 2019/20 audit of NHS Tayside, commenting that the health board has improved its financial management and service performance, but still has risks related to its high running costs.

[Operation of adult social care and support](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published a briefing on 'Adult social care and support in Scotland', describing how adult social care operates, with information on the history, key legislation and policy to explain the system. It includes data from key sources and a summary of written evidence provided to the Health and Sport Committee's social care inquiry in 2020.



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.