



Adult
and
Health



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COVID-19 – General

[Confirmation highest level of restrictions will be eased](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that 11 local authority areas in the highest level of COVID-19 restrictions will move down a level from 4 to 3 on Friday 11 December 2020. The First Minister also announced that Angus, Inverclyde and Falkirk will drop a level from 3 to 2, while Dumfries and Galloway and Borders Councils will drop to Level 1.

[Care Inspectorate report to Parliament on inspections](#)

The Care Inspectorate has laid before the Scottish Parliament a report of inspections it has carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report to parliament on 25 November 2020.

[Vaccination programme underway in Scotland](#)

The first vaccinations against COVID-19 in Scotland have been given to those carrying out the vaccination programme, the Scottish Government has confirmed. Vaccinating residents in care homes for older adults, their carers and other frontline health workers will be the next focus. As supplies allow, those over the age of 80 will be next to be vaccinated. Half of the supply is to be reserved to ensure the second injection can be given within the advised time frame.



[Weekly COVID-19 statistics published](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 6 December, 80,849 individuals had been recorded in the contact tracing software, leading to 227,703 unique contacts being traced. There had been 100,534 confirmed cases, with 5,421 in the latest week. In the week ending 6 December, there were 368 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 36 patients were treated in intensive care. 520 people aged 5-17 tested positive.

[Guidance on providing COVID-19 financial support to social care providers](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance on arrangements for providing financial support to social care providers for costs relating to the COVID-19 pandemic from December 2020 to March 2021. The guidance covers support for sustained, significant impacts to service delivery and the commitment to meet reasonable additional costs incurred as a result of the pandemic.

[Analysis of health and social care staff experience during initial outbreak published](#)

A report providing information and analysis of staff experience in health and social care during the initial COVID-19 period has been published by the Scottish Government. The Everyone Matters pulse survey, carried out independently by Webropol, provides insights from across Scotland into how individuals, teams and wider organisations have responded to the pandemic.

[NMC urges health and social care staff to take part in UK study](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has urged people to take part in a national research study investigating if, how, and why ethnicity affects COVID-19 clinical outcomes for people working in health and social care. UK REACH, led by the University of Leicester, seeks to calculate the risk of COVID-19 to BAME health and social care professionals across the UK and inform policymaking.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Working group reports on residential rehabilitation for drug and alcohol problems](#)

A report with recommendations to improve access to residential rehabilitation treatment for drug and alcohol problems has been published by the Scottish Government. The report by the Residential Rehabilitation Working Group recommends a review of funding models, the establishment of shared principles on standardisation, and sustainable, effective pathways to treatment, with a view to having national guidance for treatment provision.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Testing for visitors gets underway](#)

Coronavirus lateral flow testing for designated visitors of care homes residents has begun, with a trial across five local authority areas, the Scottish Government has



confirmed. The testing will be trialled in 14 early adopter care homes in North Ayrshire, Fife, Argyll & Bute, Inverclyde and Aberdeenshire. The government has updated its care home visiting guidance to reflect the beginning of the trial.

[Guidance for adult care homes and visitors over festive period](#)

Guidance for adult care homes and visitors over the Christmas and New Year period has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance sets out specific safeguards that care homes can put in place to support festive activities while continuing to manage transmission risk.

[Weekly care home COVID-19 data published](#)

Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult social care has been published by the Scottish Government. The data includes testing for COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland and the number of deaths reported to the Care Inspectorate by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths.

[Homecare Day celebrates care at home and housing support](#)

Scottish Care has highlighted the online campaign to raise awareness of the role of care at home and housing support services in supporting older and vulnerable citizens across the UK. Homecare Day took place on 9 December, aiming to celebrate the sector and facilitate wider discussions on its future.

[Campaign to encourage care home staff to have vaccine](#)

A campaign to encourage care home staff to have the COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered to them is being developed, Care Appointments reports. Scottish Care said a minority of staff have expressed concern about receiving the vaccine and is now working with public health officials to create an FAQ document and stage online sessions where staff can ask questions.

[Provision of designated settings for discharge of COVID-19 patients \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is working with the Department of Health and Social Care, providers and local authorities to provide assurance of designated settings to allow people with a COVID-positive test result to be discharged safely from hospitals. These settings are admitting people who are discharged from hospital with a COVID-positive test who will be moving or going back into a care home setting. The CQC is checking specific elements in the environment to ensure infection control can be maintained in the settings.

Human Rights

[Mental Welfare Commission connects UN Human Rights Day with legislative review](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has highlighted the links between the theme of this year's UN Human Rights Day (10 December) and the current review of Scotland's Mental Health Act. The focus of UN Human Rights Day 2020 is Recover Better and



the Mental Welfare Commission has placed that message in the context of the “opportunity to truly reform and update our legislation with the focus on putting individuals’ human rights at every stage of their care and treatment”.

[New learning hub on human rights and leadership in reducing health inequalities](#)

A new learning hub focused on human rights and health inequalities has been launched by Public Health Scotland. The hub explains the links between the right to health and the reduction of health inequalities and sets out what is required for people in a leadership role to take action to reduce inequalities.

[Scottish Care blog looks at UN Human Rights Day](#)

Scottish Care has also marked UN Human Rights Day. A blog by Chief Executive Donald Macaskill looks at the use of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures during the COVID-19 pandemic and questions whether this has always been rooted in the human rights principle of participation, involvement, agreement and consent.

Learning Disabilities

[COVID-19 resources to support people with learning disabilities updated](#)

A series of resources to support people with learning disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic have been updated. The booklets and guides have been developed by the University of Glasgow, with assistance from colleagues at Lancaster University, the University of Oxford and the University of Warwick, and are available on the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability website.

Older People

[Funding to support older people at risk of social isolation over winter months](#)

Almost £6m from the Connecting Scotland Programme will provide friendship and human connection to people at risk of social isolation and loneliness over the winter months, the Scottish Government has confirmed. An extra £4.3m will be used to help 5,000 older people to get online, while £1.6m will go to organisations providing key helplines for groups such as older people. Over £900,000 will go to various other projects supporting people of all ages affected by social isolation and loneliness.

Other Health and Social Care

[Care Inspectorate and SSSC publish annual report on staff vacancies](#)

The Care Inspectorate and Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) have published data on vacancies reported by care services as at 31 December 2019. The report shows the number of registered care services with a vacancy and the number of actual vacancies that services say they had using whole time equivalent (WTE) data. Key findings (at 31 December 2019) include:

- 39% of services reported having vacancies, an increase of 1% from the 2018 and 2017 (both 38%)



- the rate of WTE vacancies for all services in Scotland was 6.2%, up from 5.5% in 2018
- 49% of services with vacancies reported having problems filling them; up 2% from the previous year
- care homes for older people (63%), housing support (62%), care at home (62%), and care homes for adults (54%) had the largest proportion of services reporting vacancies where the service type had more than 100 services.

[Annual returns available from January](#)

The Care Inspectorate's annual returns will be available to service providers for completion between 18 January and 28 February 2021. This is slightly later than usual to allow time to prepare for the next phase of the registration digital app which we aim to launch in January.

[Analysis of consultation on raising the age of referral published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an independent analysis of responses to a consultation on raising the age at which children can be referred to the Children's Reporter has been published by the Scottish Government. The analysis shows overwhelming support to raise the maximum age of referral, with most indicating the age should be raised to 18 for care, protection and offence cases. The importance of harmonising definitions of a 'child' in legislation is also a key theme from responses.

[Charities call for more support and recognition for bereaved carers](#)

A call for more support and recognition for bereaved carers has been launched by Marie Curie, Sue Ryder and Reform Scotland. A joint report by the organisations recommends a new Carers (Bereavement Support) (Scotland) Bill early in the next Parliament to provide information and a plan to support carers following the end of their caring role. The report also calls for improved training and financial support, including an extension of eligibility for the Carer's Allowance and Carer's Allowance Supplement for up to 6 months after the person's caring role comes to an end.

[Analysis of views on draft pathway for healthcare professionals](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to a consultation on the draft clinical pathway for healthcare professionals working to support adults who present having experienced rape or sexual assault. Following the publication of the draft clinical pathway in October 2018, Healthcare Improvement Scotland was commissioned by the Scottish Government to hold a 12-week consultation. The consultation feedback report includes the comments received, together with the group's response and any subsequent amendments to the clinical pathway.

[Organisations addressing violence against women and girls invited to apply for fund](#)

The Scottish Government has invited organisations who work to address violence against women and girls to apply for a share of up to £13 million to help them develop and further their work over the next three years. The Delivering Equally Safe



Fund will support frontline organisations and projects that broaden access to support survivors. Priority areas of the fund include developing a person-centred approach, supporting disabled survivors and work with those in remote or island communities.

[Report from ALLIANCE Annual Conference 2020](#)

A report from the ALLIANCE Annual Conference 2020 has been published. The online event included contributions from high profile keynote speakers, interactive workshops and webinars, creative sessions and film screenings, with the event focusing on COVID-19 and the future of health and social care in Scotland.

[ALLIANCE report shares themes from engagement to inform social care review](#)

The ALLIANCE has published a report following an engagement process to inform the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland. A series of digital engagements, an online survey, open call and facilitation pack activity took place during the consultation period, with individuals with experience of social care support, families, unpaid carers, and organisations contributing.

[Annual report on Fairer Scotland Action Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published the Fairer Scotland Action Plan Progress Report for 2020, detailing the achievements and ongoing work in relation to the Fairer Scotland Action Plan, published in 2016, and an update on the actions taken in relation to two reports published by the Independent Poverty and Inequality Advisor, *Shifting the Curve* and *The Life Chances of Young People in Scotland*.

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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