

Adult
and
Health



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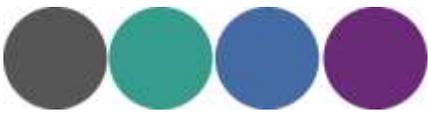
COVID-19 – General

[January lockdown begins](#)

The First Minister announced on 4 January that mainland Scotland would go into lockdown with a new legal requirement forbidding anyone from leaving their home except for essential purposes. The measures followed a steep increase in COVID-19 infections and additional pressure on the NHS. All schools were advised to continue remote learning and early years settings are closed until the end of January, except in the case of vulnerable children and those of key workers. The Scottish Government [published](#) a paper on the state of the epidemic in Scotland alongside [stay at home guidance](#).

[Health Secretary sets out vaccine plans](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has provided an update to the Scottish Parliament on vaccinations. She confirmed a total of 191,965 people had received their first dose of a vaccine and 2,990 had received their second dose, as at 13 January. By the first week in February, the government aims to have vaccinated all of those in JCVI Priority group 1 and 2 with their first dose. This covers residents in care homes for older adults, care home staff, frontline health and social care staff and those aged 80 and over living in the community. Vaccinations will then begin for people aged 70 and over by mid-February, and by the beginning of March for those aged over 65 and the clinically extremely vulnerable. The second doses will run in parallel starting from the end of February. An [FAQ paper](#) for health and social care professionals is available alongside the [deployment plan](#).



[Statement on prioritising first vaccine dose](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation has published a statement about increasing the short-term impact of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. It sets out an additional explanation from the advice on extending the schedule for vaccines published on Wednesday 30 December.

[Social worker position statement on vaccine](#)

The British Association of Social Workers has published a position statement on COVID-19 vaccination, highlighting the high-priority position of social workers in the JCVI list and recommending that all social workers accept the vaccination when offered. The statement also notes ongoing work to ensure all social workers and social care workers in all types of provider organisations are prioritised for vaccination and have access equal to that of health staff within the programme.

[Updated guidance on Care Inspectorate notifications](#)

The Care Inspectorate has updated its guidance on the submission of COVID-19 notifications, providing some additional information that has come from frequently asked questions.

[Temporary nursing register expanded](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has announced the expansion of the COVID-19 temporary register to overseas-trained nurses. In agreement with the Department of Health and Social Care and the four UK Chief Nursing Officers, the NMC has initially invited over 2,000 nurses who have trained overseas and are ready to take the final stage of their permanent registration application process.

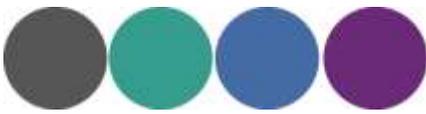
[Weekly statistics on COVID-19 deaths](#)

National Records of Scotland has published its latest weekly update on deaths involving COVID-19. As at 10 January, 7,074 deaths have been registered in Scotland where coronavirus was mentioned on the death certificate. In the week 4-10 January, 384 deaths were registered that mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, an increase of 197 deaths from the previous week. The statistics for 4-10 January show that 73% of the 384 deaths were of people aged 75 and over, and 9% were aged under 65. The majority of deaths occurred in hospitals representing 251 deaths, 113 occurred in care homes and 19 at home or in a non-institutional setting.

Alcohol and Drugs

[New Public Health Minister and dedicated Minister for Drug Policy in mini re-shuffle](#)

The First Minister has announced that a dedicated Minister for Drug Policy has been appointed to lead the Scottish Government's work on tackling and reducing harm of drug misuse and reducing the number of drug-related deaths. Angela Constance will take up the role between now and the Scottish Parliament elections. Mairi Gougeon



has also been appointed Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing after Joe FitzPatrick resigned in December.

[Project to help relatives of drug users](#)

The Drugs Deaths Taskforce is funding a new project to help the families of people at risk of dying through drugs. Families as Lifesavers will start work in early January, run by the Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs. It is one of the funded projects through the Taskforce's Innovation & National Development Fund.

[Take home Naloxone to be distributed](#)

The Scottish Ambulance Service will give take-home Naloxone kits to people at high risk of accidental overdoses as part of efforts to reduce the number of drug deaths, the Scottish Government has confirmed. The kits will be supplied at incidents after 999 has been called for a person experiencing an accidental overdose. Those at risk of witnessing a future opiate overdose, such as family and carer groups, will be given a kit and training in how to administer it.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[National action plan for dementia during pandemic published](#)

A national action plan for dementia and COVID-19 has been published by the Scottish Government in partnership with COSLA. It sets out plans to build on the national response to the coronavirus pandemic since March 2020 and how this will continue and expand in 2021 to continue to support recovery for people with dementia and their carers. The plan includes 21 commitments, including commissioning a study in partnership with the Care Inspectorate to examine the use and review of psychoactive medication in care homes during the pandemic.

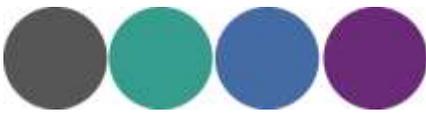
Care Homes/Care at Home

[Care home lateral flow testing guidance published](#)

New guidance on adult care home lateral flow testing guidance has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance supports care homes to implement lateral flow device testing and clarifies which health and social care staff members should be tested, while training documents cover self-testing for visiting professionals, self-testing for social workers, and a competency testing framework. An [update](#) for care homes has also been published which includes: Reported testing issues and workarounds; Arrangements for resupply of tests; Details on workshops in January on care home testing (updates and feedback).

[Scottish Care asks for visual ideas on future of care](#)

Scottish Care is encouraging people to share their "aspiration for a positive social care future" through its [Social Care Mosaic](#) project. As part of the Collective Care Future programme, which is focused on understanding the social care sector and exploring its future, the project asks people to share a 'tile' for the mosaic.



[IPC webinars for care home staff](#)

A series of infection prevention and control webinars for care home staff will be hosted by NHS Education for Scotland throughout January. They are free and aim to provide staff with the key infection prevention and control information they will need to protect themselves and others in the care home setting during COVID-19.

Justice

[Research on social care needs of Scotland's prisoners](#)

Research on the social care needs of Scotland's prison population has been published by the Scottish Government. The study used statistical modelling to generate a range of estimates for the percentage of the prison population with social and personal care needs, using combinations of existing social care, health, demographic and prisons data. Qualitative interviews were also conducted with a range of professionals. A key finding was that most stakeholders noted unmet social care support needs in Scottish prisons. Stakeholders raised the problem of addressing invisible disabilities and suggested there is too much focus on a narrow definition of social care as physical care needs.

Older People

[House of Lords Committee calls for action to increase healthy life expectancy](#)

A report on ageing across science, technology and healthy living has been published by the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee. The report suggests urgent action is needed to increase healthy life expectancy and reduce health inequalities in old age, an issue emphasised by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee calls for "concerted action", including more effective public health advice and strategic government interventions

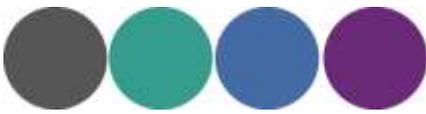
Other Health and Social Care

[Feedback sought on quality framework for family-based care](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a draft quality framework for family-based care, including fostering, adoption and adult placement. Feedback on the draft document will ensure the quality illustrations reflect good practice, legislation and the range of care and support provided and that should be experienced. A [short survey](#) is available for people to share their views and the closing date is 29 January 2021.

[Government content with IJB inclusion in Civil Contingencies Act following views](#)

The Scottish Government has published its response to an [analysis](#) of consultation responses about including Integration Joint Boards (IJBs) as Category 1 responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Ministers concluded the inclusion of IJBs in the legislation, as planned, would ensure appropriate arrangements were in place for emergency planning to support local communities.



[NHS Chief Executive, CMO and CNO confirmed in appointment announcements](#)

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman has announced three senior health and social care appointments in the Scottish Government. Caroline Lamb has been appointed Chief Executive of NHS Scotland and Scottish Government Director General Health and Social Care, Dr Gregor Smith has been appointed Chief Medical Officer (CMO), and Professor Amanda Croft has been appointed Chief Nursing Officer (CNO).

[End of EU transition period guidance for social care](#)

Guidance on adult social care and planning for the end of the EU transition period has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance includes information on access for Social Care Providers to the National Services Scotland Support Call Centre in the event of disruption to essential product or supplies.

[Improvement skills programme open for social service workers](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has announced it is working with NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to offer social service workers the chance to take part in the Scottish Improvement Foundation Skills (SIFS) programme. A quality improvement learning programme developed by NES, SIFS is for all staff working in health and social service organisations who have an interest in improvement.

[Papers produced following Social Care Data meetings](#)

A paper has been developed by Scottish Care following Social Care Data Forum meetings in 2020. The information contained within the papers from all three forum meetings will be developed into a position statement on data for social care.

[ALLIANCE to host digital gathering online event](#)

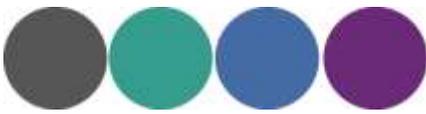
The ALLIANCE has announced the People at the Centre: ALLIANCE Digital Gathering will take place from 22 to 26 February 2021. The week long Digital Gathering offers delegates opportunities to discuss pertinent issues in health and social care and contributions include keynote speakers, interactive workshops, podcasts and film screenings.

[Iriss Insight paper on resilience in social work](#)

The latest Insight published by Iriss focuses on creating a culture of resilience for social workers. It covers resilient organisational culture values, giving staff space for emotional expression, peer support and the importance of viewing chronic stress of social workers as an endemic organisational issue to be addressed.

[Consultation on new CQC strategy opened \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has launched a consultation on its new strategy. The CQC said the draft strategy, published following over 10,000 interactions with stakeholders, has been developed to enable more effective regulation for the future and support services to keep people safe. The four key



themes of the strategy are people and communities; smarter regulation; safety through learning; and accelerating improvement.

Other

[Citizens' Assembly sets out vision for future of Scotland](#)

The Citizens' Assembly of Scotland has set out its vision for the future of Scotland in a report to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament "for consideration, action and delivery". The Assembly is a group of 100 citizens from across Scotland that are broadly representative of the country and came together to address questions around the future of Scotland. The Assembly's report sets out an agreed vision, including "properly resourced and managed health and social care services, built around individuals and communities to achieve good health and wellbeing for all", alongside a range of recommendations for action.

[Labour leader stands down](#)

Richard Leonard has stepped down as leader of the Scottish Labour Party with immediate effect, the BBC reports. Mr Leonard said he believed speculation about his leadership had become a "distraction".

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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