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Health



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**COVID-19 – General**

[Guidance on Pfizer vaccine in care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has published guidance for use of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine in care homes. It includes information for care home residents and staff, including preparation of the environment, the vaccine and specific guidance for mobile and immobile residents.

[Lockdown restrictions extended](#)

The First Minister confirmed this week that current lockdown measures will stay in place across mainland Scotland and some island communities until at least the middle of February. Measures will be kept under consideration and Parliament will be updated following a Cabinet Review on 2 February.

[Latest NRS data on deaths involving COVID-19](#)

National Records of Scotland has published the latest weekly statistics on deaths involving COVID-19. Of the total number of deaths registered in week 2 (11 January to 17 January) there were 368 where COVID-19 was mentioned on the death certificate, a decrease of 23 from the previous week. The majority (65 per cent) occurred in hospitals (240 deaths), with 97 deaths in care homes, 27 at home or in non-institutional settings and 4 in other institutions.



### [Social renewal board publishes findings](#)

The Scottish Government has published the final report of the Social Renewal Advisory Board titled “If not now, when?”. The Social Renewal Advisory Board was set up by Scottish Ministers to make proposals that can renew Scotland once the country starts to emerge from the pandemic. The final report sets a course towards this future. The report focuses on: money and work; people, rights and advancing equality; and communities and collective endeavour.

### [Vaccination awareness campaign](#)

A new information campaign on COVID-19 vaccinations has been launched by the Scottish Government. The ‘Roll your sleeves up’ campaign will emphasise the importance of the vaccine and its safety, as well as the prioritisation list set out by Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) to ensure those most at risk are vaccinated first. The Health Secretary, Jeane Freeman, has also [written](#) to the Scottish Parliament to provide an update on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

### [Open webinar on vaccination](#)

Scottish Care will host an open webinar on vaccination on 26 January, with Professor Jason Leitch and Dr Syed Ahmed from the Scottish Government. The session is open to care providers and frontline staff.

### [Information on NHS Scotland services](#)

The Scottish Government has published a booklet containing advice on how to access NHS Scotland services safely during the pandemic, which will be sent to every household this month. The booklet and a cover letter from the First Minister contain information on how to get the right NHS care, in the right place safely.

### [Care Quality Commission insight report on COVID \(England\)](#)


The latest insight report from the Care Quality Commission focuses on the designated settings scheme for adult social care and looks more closely on the latest data on COVID-19 related deaths. Designated settings are intended for people who are discharged from hospital with a COVID-positive test who will be moving or going back into a care home setting.

## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Further funding to tackle drug deaths](#)

Additional funding has been announced by the Scottish Government to improve and increase services for people affected by drug addiction. In a statement to Parliament the First Minister confirmed plans to:

- substantially increase the number of residential rehabilitation beds across the country

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- reduce stigma and increasing the number of people in treatment for their addiction
  - allocate funding directly to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships, third sector and grassroots organisations to improve work in communities
  - widen the distribution of naloxone
  - implement new standards for medicine-assisted treatment to ensure equitable services for all drug users
  - reassess how overdose prevention facilities might be established despite legal barriers

## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Specialist care homes to close](#)

The BBC has reported that two specialist care homes for older people with sight loss are facing closure because of financial difficulties. Jenny's Well in Paisley and Braeside House in Edinburgh, both run by Sight Scotland, have incurred losses of £1.5 million in the last year. A consultation with staff has begun and discussions are being held with residents and families about alternative care.

### [Crown Office unit investigating care home deaths](#)

The BBC has reported on the work of the COVID-19 Deaths Investigation Team (CDIT), a special Crown Office unit set up to investigate deaths in care homes in Scotland. The article states cases at 474 care homes are currently under investigation. CDIT, also known as Operation Koper, has a core team of 14 staff who also work with other agencies such as Police Scotland and the Care Inspectorate.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Annual returns deadline extended](#)

The Care Inspectorate has revised its deadline for services submitting their annual returns. Due to the current pressure services may be experiencing, and the restrictions on some services' ability to operate, the deadline has been extended to Sunday 28 March, providing an additional four weeks for completion.

### [Investment in local carer services](#)

Funding has been announced for local carer centres, to increase support for unpaid carers and help them to take a break from caring roles. The Scottish Government said the additional investment would allow carer centres to react flexibly to the needs of carers in their local areas.

### [Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report](#)

The Care Inspectorate has released its latest Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 3 of 2021/21. The report presents data on the number of registered care services,



new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

### [Interview with Derek Feeley, Chair of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#)

The ALLIANCE has announced a forthcoming interview with Derek Feeley on 26 February 2021. Mr Feeley leads the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, which is currently considering the funding, delivery, governance and regulation of social care and will report shortly on its findings.

#### **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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