

Adult
and
Health



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COVID-19 - General

[Cases of Brazilian strain identified in Scotland](#)

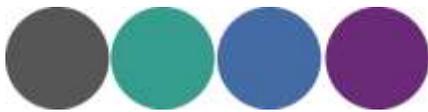
Three cases of the COVID-19 variant originating from Brazil have been identified in the north east of Scotland, the Scottish Government has announced. Three Scottish residents, returning from Brazil via Paris and London, tested positive for COVID-19 during their self-isolation period and the UK's sequencing programme detected the new variant. Health protection teams have assessed each case and are arranging protective measures for potentially exposed individuals

[Care Inspectorate report to the Scottish Parliament on inspections, 3 March 2021](#)

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 17 February 2021.

[Latest weekly COVID-19 statistics](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 28 February, there were 202,470 confirmed cases, with 3,798 in the latest week. In the week ending 28 February, there were 488 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 42 new patients were treated in intensive care. 436 people aged 5-17 tested positive.



[JCVI issues advice on next priority group for vaccine](#)

An interim statement on the groups that should be prioritised for in phase 2 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme has been published by the JCVI. The statement advises the continuation of an age-based delivery model, beginning with those aged between 40-49. The JCVI notes the evidence suggests that the risks of hospitalisation from COVID-19 increase with age but encourages men, those from BAME communities, those with a BMI of 30 or more, and those experiencing socio-economic deprivation, to accept the vaccine when offered.

[New data on effectiveness of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines](#)

New data suggesting both the Pfizer and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines are highly effective in reducing COVID-19 infections among older people has been published by the UK Government. Public Health England submitted a pre-print of a real-world study that shows symptomatic infections in over 70s decreasing from around three weeks after one dose of both vaccines, while data for the over 80s suggests that a single dose of either vaccine is more than 80% effective at preventing hospitalisation, around three to four weeks after the jab.

[Westminster inquiry on COVID impact and future funding of social care \(England\)](#)

A new inquiry into how COVID-19 has impacted the adult social care sector and its long-term funding needs following the pandemic has been launched by a Committee at Westminster. The Housing, Communities & Local Government Committee has previously carried out a joint inquiry with the Health & Social Care Committee on the long-term funding of adult social care in 2018 and called for the establishment of a parliamentary commission to develop a long-term funding solution for adult social care based on political consensus and public engagement.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Funding to keep drug users connected with lifeline services announced](#)

Funding of £2.75m to help people at risk from drug-related harm stay connected to lifeline services during the pandemic and beyond has been announced by the Scottish Government. The funding will be used over the next two years to supply and distribute smart phones and other appropriate devices, provide data and to build the skills and confidence of people using services and those who support them. The initiative will reach a minimum of 2,000 service users and 200 staff, with funding also used to develop a range of digital technologies and encourage service innovations.

[Latest data on specialist drug treatment in Scotland](#)

New data on initial assessments for specialist drug treatment in Scotland has been published by Public Health Scotland. The data suggests that in the period 2019-20, 10,900 people were recorded on the Scottish Drug Misuse Database. 54% of those assessed for treatment were aged 35 years or over, compared to 29% in 2006-07. Heroin was the substance most commonly reported, with 36% of people reporting it as their main drug, compared with 63% in 2006/07.



[Royal College recommends 'bold policies' to reduce drug-related deaths](#)

A number of “bold policies” to help reduce drug-related deaths in Scotland have been recommended in a report by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. The College has called for consideration of decriminalisation of the possession of drugs, safe drug consumption facilities, and rolling out a heroin assisted treatment programme in all major centres in Scotland, to help reduce drug-related harms. The report also suggests urgent research is required to examine the links between poverty and drug-related deaths, including the impact of COVID-19 on drug use.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Committee pandemic report calls for human rights focus in future care home inquiry](#)

A Committee at the Scottish Parliament has welcomed plans for a public inquiry into care homes during the pandemic but asked the Scottish Government to ensure specific consideration is given to whether human rights standards and principles have been met. The Equalities and Human Rights Committee has conducted an inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and published a report of its findings. It calls for the Scottish Government to ensure those who have already experienced disproportionately negative effects as a result of the pandemic do not suffer further as the country recovers. It also recommends that a detailed cumulative impact assessment of the steps taken to mitigate the pandemic and, in recovery planning, for women to not be further impacted disproportionately.

[Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes published](#)

Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes has been published by the Scottish Government. The publication covers the number of deaths reported by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths, and the visiting status of care homes in Scotland.

[HC-One to sell 52 care homes across the UK](#)

HC-One has announced it is to sell 52 care homes across the UK as part of plans “to better meet the current and future care needs of the communities it serves, recognising evolving care needs, including the growing demand for more complex care and dementia care”. The company said the homes are up for sale in “in areas where we feel our communities would be better served by a local operator in conjunction with other local services”. An additional four homes are to close. According to The Scotsman, GMB Scotland has named Kinnaird Manor in Falkirk as one of the care homes being sold.

[Event to share research on impact of visiting restrictions on care home residents](#)

The findings of a research project examining the impact of COVID-19 visiting restrictions on relatives of older care home residents will take place online on 23 March. The final report, The Cost of Separation, sets out findings from the study led by the University of Edinburgh and involving the University of Strathclyde, University of the West of Scotland and Iriss.



[Guidance to support care home residents to vote](#)

Guidance on supporting care home residents to vote in the forthcoming Scottish Parliament election has been published by the Electoral Commission. The election takes place on Thursday 6 May.

Mental Health

[Findings of Independent Forensic Mental Health Review published](#)

The final report of the Independent Forensic Mental Health Review has been published. The review was chaired by Derek Barron and was tasked with evaluating the significant changes that have emerged in the way forensic mental health services were being delivered. The report makes a series of recommendations, including for the creation of a new national health board to improve accountability and consistency across services. It also highlights the need to provide better secure care for women in service facilities and to develop a data management system that monitors and reports on performance.

[New specialist mental health support service for health and social care staff](#)

A new specialist service offering confidential mental health assessment and treatment for health and social care professionals has been announced by the Scottish Government. The Workforce Specialist Service will be delivered by experts with experience in treating a range of issues such as stress, anxiety, depression or addiction, with a focus on the impact this may have on a person's work.

[Mental Welfare Commission updates advice note](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has updated its advice note for practitioners who are using the Mental Health Act and Adults with Incapacity Act when caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The advice addresses a range of issues and is updated regularly as the pandemic continues.

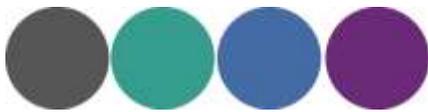
Social Work

[BASW marks World Social Work Month with a series of events](#)

The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is hosting a series of events to mark World Social Work Month 2021. The schedule, which began this week, includes a number of sessions led by the Scottish branch towards the end of March.

[Session to focus on social work and Gypsy/Traveller communities](#)

Iriss is to host a one-hour session that will explore terminology, historical understanding and the relationship between social work and Gypsy/Traveller communities. The event will take place online on 18 March, exploring solution-focused approaches to positive engagement with Scotland's Gypsy/Travellers and reflect on lived experience of inclusive practice.



Other Health and Social Care

[Updated Code of Practice on international recruitment](#)

An updated Code of Practice on the international recruitment and appointment of health and social care personnel has been published by the Scottish Government. The Code, applying to all health and social care organisations and health and social care recruitment agencies, has been updated to reflect the WHO expert advisory group's Global Code of Practice.

[Committee writes to Scottish Government following recent social care roundtable](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Health and Sport Committee has written to Health Secretary Jeane Freeman following a recent roundtable session with social care stakeholders. The Committee is seeking a response to a number of issues raised during the session, which focused on the recent Independent Review of Adult Social Care and featured representation from CCPS, local authorities, those who use care services and carers. Issues highlighted include: the "implementation gap"; the need for a preventative approach; fair work and professionalisation in the workforce; data gaps; national and local accountability and the role of the Care Inspectorate; and the "over clinicalising" of social care and financial issues brought about by the pandemic.

[New online PVG service launched](#)

A new digital channel to apply for PVG level disclosures has been launched by Disclosure Scotland. The new online PVG service will become the main application process for most PVG applications. Organisations enrolled with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services (VSDS) can access PVG Online through VSDS.

[Scottish Government submits evidence to Human Rights Act review](#)

The Scottish Government has published its response to an independent review of the Human Rights Act set up by the UK Government. The Review is considering how the Act is working in practice and whether any change is needed. The Scottish Government's submission emphasises that the Act remains an essential means of safeguarding human rights in Scotland, and across the UK, and that it strongly opposes any changes that would undermine or erode these protections.

[Chancellor sets out UK Budget](#)

UK Chancellor Rishi Sunak has set out the UK Government's Budget for 2021/22. Among the measures announced, the Job Retention Scheme and self-employed support will be extended until the end of September, the £20 uplift to Universal Credit will be extended for a further six months and the National Living Wage will rise to £8.91 from April. Scotland will receive an additional £1.2bn via the Barnett formula.

**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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