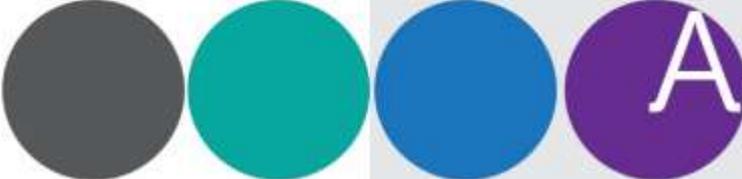


3 – 9 April 2021



bulletin


 Adult  
 and  
 Health
**COVID-19 - General**
[Latest COVID-19 figures published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has published its latest weekly data on COVID-19. As at 4 April 2021, there have been 220,234 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 2,415 in the week ending 4 April. In the week ending 30 March there were 161 admissions to hospital with a laboratory confirmed test of COVID-19, while in the week ending 4 April there were nine new admissions to Intensive Care Units for confirmed COVID-19 patients.

[Latest National Records of Scotland figures on COVID-19 deaths](#)

The National Records of Scotland's latest figures show that 9,997 death certificates have mentioned COVID-19 up to Sunday 4 April, and a further six deaths have been since been registered within 28 days of a positive test for the virus. Scotland has therefore exceeded 10,000 deaths linked to COVID-19 since the outbreak began last March. In the week 29 March – 4 April, 38 deaths were registered that mentioned COVID-19 on the death certificate, a decrease of 24 deaths from the previous week. Four deaths took place in care homes. Last week's total is likely to rise as most registration offices were closed on Good Friday.

[Under 30s should be offered alternative vaccine, says JCVI](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recommended those under 30 in the UK should be offered alternatives to the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. This follows

[COVID-19 - General](#)
[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)
[Disabilities](#)
[Health](#)
[Mental Health](#)
[Older People](#)
[Other Health & Social Care](#)



MHRA findings which suggest a link between the AstraZeneca vaccine and rare cases of blood clotting. The overall risk is approximately four people in a million who receive the vaccine, while the MHRA has emphasised that the benefits of vaccination continue to outweigh any risks, though careful consideration should be given to people at higher risk of blood clots.

## **Care Homes/Care at Home**

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

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

### [Scottish Care publishes election manifesto](#)

Scottish Care has published its manifesto ahead of May's Scottish Parliament election. The manifesto reiterates recommendations from the independent review of adult social care, calling for a social care covenant and outlining eight areas of focus in presenting a future landscape for social care in Scotland.

### [Webinar to support visiting in care homes](#)

A webinar to guide care homes in supporting visiting among families and friends of residents is to be hosted by Scottish Care and Alzheimer Scotland on 15 April. The session will focus on the new Open with Care guidance as it comes into place.

## **Disabilities**

### [Report calls for universal sensory literate services](#)

A report calling for universal sensory literate services has been produced by deafscotland, Deafblind Scotland, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, Sight Scotland and the ALLIANCE. The report highlights a high prevalence of poor mental health in people with sensory loss and sets out recommendations for government, public authorities and trade unions to achieve "prompt and significant impact".

## **Health**

### [Independent National Whistleblowing Officer and Standards launched for NHS](#)

The Independent National Whistleblowing Officer and National Whistleblowing Standards have been launched for the NHS in Scotland. All organisations providing an NHS service need to have procedures in place that enable their staff, students, volunteers and others delivering health services, to access the standards and raise concern. The National Whistleblowing Officer, undertaken by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman will then be able to investigate complaints that have been through the local whistleblowing process.



- Two new [training modules](#) for NHS staff on the [National Whistleblowing Standards](#) have been launched by NHS Education for Scotland.

### [RPS report sets out 2030 vision for community pharmacy](#)

A report setting out a vision for community pharmacy in 2030 has been published by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) Scotland. The report, open for consultation, “describes a future where community pharmacies will remain the place from which people get their medicines, but the pharmacist’s role will be transformed”, with pharmacists more clinically focused on supporting the safe and effective use of medicines and patients offered a person-centred conversation about their medicines.

### [NMC launches consultation on post-registration standards](#)

A consultation on new post-registration standards has been launched by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). The standards were last updated 15 years ago and set out the knowledge and skills needed to gain post-registration community public health nursing and specialist practice qualifications. The consultation closes on 2 August.

## **Mental Health**

### [Report on early intervention in psychosis published by HIS](#)

A report on early intervention in psychosis (EIP) has been published by Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS). The report, commissioned by the Scottish Government and co-produced with people with lived experience of psychosis, their families and carers, found that intervening early leads to significantly improved outcomes but there is significant variation across Scotland in the provision of care and treatment for people with first episode psychosis and most services are not consistently delivering all core, evidence-based components of EIP.

### [Study links COVID-19 and subsequent mental health and neurological issues](#)

People diagnosed with COVID-19 in the previous six months were more likely to develop mental health and neurological issues, according to a study led by Oxford University. The study, published in Lancet Psychiatry, found that a third of those with previous COVID-19 infection went on to develop or have a relapse of a psychological or neurological condition, with those in intensive care at an even higher risk. Anxiety and mood disorders were the most common diagnosis, and these were more likely to be due to the stress of the experience. Conditions like stroke and dementia were more likely to be down to the biological impacts of the virus itself.

## **Older People**

### [Age Scotland publishes manifesto ahead of election](#)

Age Scotland has published its manifesto ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections in May. The charity outlines a number of key areas for action, including a call for the next Scottish Government to establish an Older People’s Commissioner.



### [Telephone service for older veterans to expand following grant](#)

A telephone friendship service for older members of the ex-service community is to be expanded following a grant of £70,000. Age Scotland's pilot Comradeship Circles service has helped connect older veterans on regular group calls and has received funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust to enable it to expand and continue until Autumn 2022.

### **Other Health and Social Care**

#### [Iriss conference for final year social care students on 30 April](#)

A conference for final year students in social care is to be hosted by the Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) on 30 April. Speakers at the conference will include Scottish Care Chief Executive Dr Donald Macaskill.

#### [Report on social work leadership during COVID-19 published](#)

A report on social work leadership during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic has been published by Social Work Scotland. According to Social Work Scotland, themes highlighted include "paucity of resources, the strengths and challenges of the Chief Social Work Officer role, and the profession's voice in health and social care".

#### [New figures on persistent poverty in Scotland published](#)

Figures on persistent poverty have been published by the Scottish Government. The statistics, taken from the Understanding Society survey, suggest that between 2015 and 2019, 12% of people in Scotland were in persistent poverty after housing costs. This included 11% of working age adults and 12% of pensioners.

### **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, 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.