

10 – 16 April 2021



bulletin



# Adult and Health

**COVID-19 - General**[Accelerated easing of restrictions announced](#)

The Scottish Government is to slightly accelerate its timetable for easing lockdown restrictions because of continued vaccination progress and suppression of the virus. The First Minister announced that, from Friday 16 April, people will be allowed to meet in groups of up to six adults from six households in outdoor settings. The stay local order will be lifted and people will be able to travel within Scotland for outdoor socialising, recreation and exercise provided they do not stay with another household overnight. Nicola Sturgeon also confirmed that from Monday 26 April the whole of Scotland, including island communities, will move to Level 3.


[Latest COVID-19 statistics](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 11 April, there had been 222,161 confirmed cases, with 1,747 in the latest week. In the same week, there were 137 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and 7 new patients were treated in intensive care. In the week ending Sunday 28 March, there were 47 confirmed cases under the school testing programme.

[Over-45s to be invited for vaccine this week](#)

The BBC reports that the next phase in Scotland's vaccination programme has begun, as over-45s started to receive invitations

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



in the post for their first vaccine. To date, a total of 2,682,706 have received their first jab in Scotland.

### [RCN survey highlights vaccine disparity between NHS and other settings](#)

The Royal College of Nursing has published a members' survey showing more than nine in 10 respondents have received at least one dose of the vaccine and 62 per cent have received both doses. The survey shows differences between care settings, with nurses outside the NHS still behind NHS colleagues when it comes to receiving their second jab. Nearly half of nursing staff outside the NHS, including those in social care and community services, are waiting for their second jab. This compares to just under 24% of those working in the NHS.

### [Care Inspectorate report on inspections, 15 April 2021](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published a report of inspections carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report of 31 March. This report is routinely laid before the Scottish Parliament every fortnight but because of the current election period, it will not be formally laid until the next session of Parliament begins.

### [Latest two-monthly report on COVID-19 legislation](#)

The Scottish Government has published the latest two-monthly report on the Coronavirus Acts, setting out the status and operation of legislation enacted in response to the pandemic. It covers the reporting period from Monday 1 February to Wednesday 31 March. The report explores the impact of the legislation a year after the pandemic began.

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

### [Updated advice for care homes on visiting professionals and communal activities](#)

Updated advice for care homes on visiting professionals and communal activities has been issued by the Scottish Government. The letter provides guidance on the return of health, social care and other services who contribute to the health and wellbeing of people living in care homes. It sets out principles which support the staged return of visiting professionals, "recognising the importance of the provision of equitable, person-centred and holistic healthcare alongside wider services to improve the wellbeing and overall health of people living in care homes".

### [Study to establish core outcomes for trials on prevention of COVID-19 in care homes](#)

The establishment of a Core Outcome Set (COS) that should be measured at a minimum in all trials of COVID-19 prevention in care homes is the subject of a new study. The COS-COVID-PCARE project, led by researchers from Cardiff University alongside the Universities of Liverpool and Nottingham, is conducting an online Delphi survey with a range of stakeholders to rank the outcomes that they consider to be the most important to include, followed by an online consensus meeting to agree on the 'final outcomes' to be included.



### [Consultation on vaccination of care home staff \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health & Social Care has launched a consultation seeking views on whether to make COVID-19 vaccinations a condition of work for people who are deployed in older adult care homes in England. Experts on the SAGE social care working group advised that 80 per cent of staff and 90 per cent of residents should be vaccinated to provide a minimum level of protection. Only 53 per cent of older adult homes in England currently meet this threshold, with the staff vaccination rate below 80 per cent in 89 local authority areas. The five-week consultation will consider the requirement for care home providers, who are caring for older adults, to deploy only those workers who have received their COVID-19 vaccination.

## **Mental Health**

### [Guidance documents on local suicide prevention action plans](#)

COSLA has published a series of documents on suicide prevention guidance which aim to support the development of robust, effective and sustainable local suicide prevention action plans. The documents include a navigation tool, data, evidence and intelligence guidance, plus information on monitoring and evaluation, and governance and collaboration.

## **Other Health and Social Care**

### [Election hustings events](#)

Two election hustings events focused on social care have been scheduled ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections on 6 May. [Scottish Care](#) will host a virtual hustings on 21 April with health and social care spokespeople from the five main parties taking part. The [Coalition of Care and Support Providers](#) will hold their virtual hustings on 29 April and those taking part include Minister for Public Health, Mairi Gougeon.

### [Fraser Allander Institute publishes briefing note on adult social care](#)

The Fraser of Allander Institute has published a briefing note on adult social care. It highlights the recommendations of the Independent Review of Adult Social Care, particularly for a National Care Service, and raises questions about how adult social care will continue to be funded in the long term.

**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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