




Adult and Health



[COVID-19 - General](#)

[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Disabilities](#)

[Justice](#)

[Older People](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

COVID-19 - General

[Tests available even with no symptoms](#)

Asymptomatic lateral-flow test kits are now available to order, the Scottish Government reports. These can be picked up from local walk-through or drive through test sites from 3.30pm each day, ordered online or by phone. The expansion of test availability aims to find cases that would otherwise be undetected and to ensure that people testing positive will self-isolate.

[Calls for urgent pandemic inquiry](#)

The BBC reports on a group of families, 'The COVID-19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK', have written to the UK Government calling for an urgent independent inquiry into the handling of the pandemic. The UK Government has said there is no capacity for this at the moment, but has committed to an inquiry in the future.

[Impact of the pandemic on different households](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published 'Coronavirus and the social impacts on households in subnational areas in Great Britain: 2020 and 2021', which uses indicators from the ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey to understand the impacts of the pandemic.



[Additional vaccine doses to support booster programme](#)

The UK Government's Department of Health & Social Care has secured an additional 60 million doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which will reportedly be used to support the booster COVID-19 vaccination programme beginning in Autumn.

[Taking account of human rights when considering COVID-19 status certificates](#)

The Scottish Human Rights Commission has published a briefing paper setting out the human rights concerns and obligations the Scottish Government would need to consider if it planned to introduce COVID-19 status certificates. Among the recommendations is to take a human rights based approach to decision making, and to only use, support or permit any use of COVID-19 status certification once there is clear advice on overall effectiveness, if the system is practicable for all, and there must be regular, open and transparent review of the necessity of any certification scheme.

[Investing in social prescribing to relieve healthcare pressure post pandemic](#)

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, in partnership with Support in Mind Scotland, has published a report into social prescribing as an approach to alleviate pressure on the NHS and other public services post pandemic. The report, 'A Desk Review of Social Prescribing: from origins to opportunities', examines the current definition, structure and impact of social prescribing, as well as discussing the barriers to improving and expanding social prescribing and recommendations for change.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Supportive environments for independence](#)

Ways to make the environment more easily understood and more supportive of independence for people living with dementia are outlined in a blog post by the Dementia Services Development Centre. The principles outlined include small ways to reduce stress such as increasing light levels for visibility, minimising distractions by controlling the level of sensory information, and to make any changes to the environment easy to use and understand.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Designated settings for people with COVID-19 leaving hospital \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is continuing to work with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), local authorities and individual care providers to provide assurance of safe and high-quality care in designated settings, which are part of a scheme to allow people with a COVID-positive test result to be discharged safely from hospitals. As of 13 April, there are 145 CQC IPC assured designated setting beds within 105 local authorities, and there are a further 40 "alternative settings", where local authorities have agreed with local NHS partners to make use of NHS settings to fulfil the role of a designated setting.



Disabilities

[Reducing poverty through disability assistance](#)

Research into how disability assistance could reduce poverty in Scotland has been published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, in partnership with the Glasgow Disability Alliance, Dundee Fighting for Fairness, and Inclusion Scotland. Discussing how the Scottish Government and Social Security Scotland can maximise social security to improve living standards, the research reportedly finds that whilst the dignity-based approach is a welcome change, there are concerns this will not be reflected in practice.

Justice

[Civil justice statistics](#)

Civil Justice Statistics in Scotland 2019-20 have been published by the Scottish Government's Safer Communities Directorate. The publication covers the structures and procedures in civil courts, trends in civil law court cases, civil justice problems and court reforms.

[Prison population in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government's Justice Directorate has published experimental prison population statistics covering the period 2009-10 to 2019-20, expanding on a previous publication to include information about legal statuses, sentences and offences. Among other key findings, the statistics show a generally rising trend in the prison population between 2009-10 and 2011-12, then falling steadily until 2018-18 and 2019-20 with a steep rise from 7,500 to almost 8,200.

Older People

[Warning on exclusion of older people with digital and card-only payments](#)

Age Scotland is warning businesses that older people are at risk of being excluded from shops, cafes and restaurants using digital and card-only payments. Furthermore, many older people may not have access to a smartphone and may struggle to order through an app or use contact tracing apps with a QR code. Age Scotland are urging businesses to offer alternative ways to book, order and pay to take account of older people that may not have the technology.

Other Health and Social Care

[Institution to promote the use of real-world evidence in health decision-making](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has announced their membership of a new GetReal Institute to facilitate the adoption and implementation of real-world evidence (RWE) in health care decision-making in Europe. The Institute aims to prioritise their efforts in reducing barriers to using data that is generated in routine clinical practice in health care decision making, bridging the gap between



RWE and conventional randomised controlled trial (RCT) approaches, and addressing the evidence needs of "downstream" decision-makers – HTA bodies, payers, clinical guideline developers, clinicians, and patients – whose perspectives and decision contexts are as important as those of regulatory agencies.

[Ideas wanted to promote discussion and reflection](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) is seeking ideas for their Iriss Insights series which promote debate, discussion and reflection to inform practice and policy. They are looking for sketches of ideas by 26 May 2021.

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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