

1 – 7 May 2021



bulletin



# Adult and Health



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## COVID-19 - General

[Latest weekly COVID-19 stats published by Public Health Scotland](#)

Public Health Scotland has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. At Sunday 2 May, there had been 226,644 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 1,022 in the latest week. In the same week, there were 62 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19 and nine new patients treated in intensive care. In the week ending 25 April, there were 32 confirmed cases under the school testing programme.

[Latest COVID-19 death figures published by NRS](#)

As at 2 May, 10,097 deaths had been registered in Scotland with COVID-19 mentioned on the death certificate, according to statistics published by National Records of Scotland (NRS). In the week 26 April – 2 May, 19 such deaths were registered, a decrease of four from the previous week.

[Warning over COVID-19 spread in Moray](#)

Public health officials have warned of “uncontrolled, sustained community transition” of COVID-19 in Moray, the BBC reports. The region currently has an infection rate of more than 81 cases per 100,000, four times the Scotland-wide level. Chris Littlejohn, Deputy Director of Public Health at NHS Grampian, has urged everyone in Moray to get tested, even if they have no symptoms.



### [Iriss event to launch resource on impact of COVID-19 on outcomes for people](#)

A resource bringing together stories on the impact of COVID-19 on people's outcomes will be launched at an Iriss event on 26 May. A Shared Experience was developed through the Personal Outcomes Network (PON) to share stories of the experiences of those working across a range of sectors during an extended public health emergency. The event will be led by co-authors and PON Co-ordinating group members Emma Miller (University of Strathclyde and Ellen Daly (Iriss).

### **Alzheimer's/Dementia**

#### [Dementia Centre blog on link between risk and distressed behaviour](#)

A blog on the link between risk and distressed behaviour has been published by the Dementia Services Development Centre. The article notes that a particular attitude to risk can prevent a person with dementia from doing something because it is felt 'too risky', adding that restricting personal freedom and choice often leads to distressed behaviour and can result in aggression, which can in turn result in harm for both the person themselves and those who support them.

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

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

The Scottish Government has published weekly additional data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland. The data sets out the number of deaths reported by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths, and supported visiting status as indicated by adult care homes.

#### [STUC calls for 'urgent reform of residential care'](#)

The Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) has called for the next Scottish Government to "follow through on urgent reform of residential care". STUC highlighted issues relating to wages and zero-hour contracts, private ownership and increased risk among care workers in relation to COVID-19.

#### [Westminster committee publishes report on care home visiting restrictions \(England\)](#)

The Human Rights Joint Committee has published its report on care home visiting restrictions during the pandemic. The report examines the adequacy of government guidance for care home visits, the effect of restrictions on residents, families and those with learning disabilities, and the implementation of guidance and the associated challenges for care home providers. The committee recommends guidance be underpinned by law to protect the "right to family life" and suggests the Care Quality Commission "urgently needs to establish better processes for collecting data and monitoring the right of care home residents to receive visitors". While the



report focuses on restrictions in England, it suggests many of the conclusions will be relevant “given the similarities of some of the restrictions and the shared challenges”.

- The UK Government has [confirmed](#) that care home residents can now leave their home for low-risk trips without having to self-isolate for 14 days.

## **Disabilities**

### [People with disabilities at greater risk of sexual victimisation, study suggests](#)

Individuals with disabilities are twice as likely to be the victim of sexual violence during their lifetime than the general population, according to research published in SAGE journals. A meta-analysis of 68 studies on sexual violence, carried out by researchers at the University of Quebec, found that individuals with disabilities were 2.27 times more likely to be sexually victimised compared to people without disabilities. The risk ratio was significantly higher in adult participants (2.84) compared with the risk in minor participants (1.40).

### [Study highlights factors associated with anxiety and depression in adults with a learning disability](#)

Loneliness, sleep difficulties and regular use of mood stabilisers may play a role in anxiety and depression among adults with learning disabilities, according to a study in the Journal of Intellectual Disability Research. Researchers from Trinity College Dublin analysed data from a study of adults with a learning (or intellectual) disability. While age, gender, severity of disability and residential setting were not significantly associated with anxiety or depression, people were more likely to meet the criteria if: they were taking mood stabilisers, anxiolytic medications, hypnotics, sedatives or antidepressants; they had a chronic physical condition; they had difficulty sleeping; they felt lonely; or they reported aggressive behaviour in the prior two months.

## **Infection Prevention and Control**

### [Global campaign calls for better hand hygiene](#)

World Hand Hygiene Day took place on 5 May. The campaign, led by the World Health Organization, aims to maintain global promotion, visibility and sustainability of hand hygiene and to support hand hygiene improvement around the world.

## **Older People**

### [Call for EU Settlement Scheme extension to give older people chance to register](#)

Age Scotland and Scottish Care have written to Home Secretary Priti Patel calling for an extension to the EU Settlement Scheme deadline in order to give older people a wider opportunity to register and retain their rights to continue living in the UK. The two organisations, along with other signatories from across the UK, note in the letter that older people who have lived in the UK for many years or are living with dementia, may be unaware of their requirement to register for the scheme, with Age Scotland estimating that there may be more than 1,600 eligible over 65s yet to apply.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Scottish Care and Inclusion Scotland call for full implementation of social care review](#)

Scottish Care and Inclusion Scotland have issued an open letter calling for the full implementation of the recommendations of the independent review of adult social care. The letter expresses concern that there may be attempts to “water down” the proposals and stresses the need “to ensure that preserving the status quo of local governance and commissioning is not accepted”. The letter also calls for “an independent complaints mechanism to ensure genuine accountability”.

### [New Iriss Insight looks at implementation of Self-directed Support 10 years on](#)

The latest in Iriss’ Insight series looks at the implementation of Self-directed Support (SDS) 10 years since the publication of the first SDS national strategy. According to the Insight, evidence indicates “a very mixed picture of delivery across Scotland”, “bureaucratic and unwieldy” processes for delivery and the voice of the supported person not being fully heard. It suggests that a change of culture is required and there is a need for “real investment in education and training”.

### [Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 4 of 2020/21](#)

The Care Inspectorate Statistical Summary Report for Quarter 4 of 2020/21 has now been released. Updated on a quarterly basis, this 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.

### [Newly Qualified Social Workers Conference – 17 May](#)

The 2021 Newly Qualified Social Workers Conference will take place on 17 May. The conference, open to all final year students and newly qualified social workers, is hosted by the University of Stirling in partnership with the Heads of Social Work Education, Iriss, the Office of the Chief Social Work Adviser, the Scottish Association of Social Work, Scottish Social Services Council and Social Work Scotland.

### [Report looks at public service performance across UK since devolution](#)

A report on how NHS, education and social care performance has diverged across the UK since devolution has been published by the Institute for Government. The report argues that spending per person is highest in Scotland and Northern Ireland but this is not necessarily reflected in performance. One of the report’s findings is that there is a need to “improve the quality and comparability of social care statistics” and establish a “single source of truth on comparability” across the four nations.

### [Counting begins following Scottish Parliament Election](#)

Counting has begun following the Scottish Parliament Election on Thursday 6 May. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, ballot boxes are opened at 9am on Friday 7 May and counting will continue into the weekend, with the final results not expected until Saturday 8 May.

**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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