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COVID-19 – General

[Areas to stay in Level 3 restrictions](#)

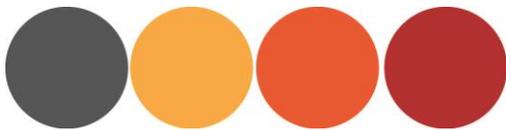
The Scottish Government has confirmed the areas of Glasgow and Moray will remain under Level 3 restrictions from 17 May, but the position will be reviewed in a week and enhanced testing and vaccination are being used. Travel in and out of these areas will be limited to essential purposes due to the high rate of cases.

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

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has released its weekly COVID-19 statistical report. By Sunday 16 May, there had been 2279,774 confirmed cases, with 1,777 in the latest week. In the same week, there were 67 admissions to hospital with confirmed COVID-19. In the week ending Sunday 9 May, there were 26 positive confirmatory PCR tests under the school testing programme.

[Launch of vaccination status scheme](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a service that allows people travelling abroad to access their record of vaccination status themselves. A vaccination status letter can be downloaded from the NHS Inform patient portal or – for those not online – requested in the post via a Freephone Covid Status Helpline.



[Peer research project on participation during the pandemic](#)

Children in Scotland has announced that they are launching a year-long national peer research project for young people to lead on creating a new understanding of participation through the pandemic. Learning from the project will be used to support more meaningful and inclusive participation in the future and findings will be supported through a national sharing event, a final report and two practice-based webinars.

[Initial learning from the pandemic \(England\)](#)

The National Audit Office (NAO) has published a report drawing out learning from previous publications and other published work covering the pandemic. The report sets out learning across the themes of risk management, transparency and public trust, data and evidence, coordination and delivery models, supporting and protecting people, and financial and workforce pressures.

Adoption and Fostering

[Quality framework for fostering, adoption and adult placement services](#)

We have published the new quality framework for fostering, adoption and adult placement services. The new framework will help us answer key questions about the difference that care is making to people and the quality and effectiveness of the elements that contribute to those differences. The framework supports services to evaluate their own performance. It will also be used by our inspectors to provide independent assurance about the quality of care and support.

Child Protection

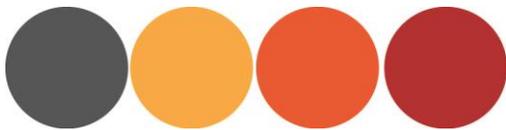
[UK Government response to report into abuse in custodial institutions \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has released its response to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's report Sexual Abuse of Children in Custodial Institutions: 2009 to 2017. The response addresses the seven recommendations made in the report with updates as to action taken or to come.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Findings from research project on the ELC expansion](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated findings from the second phase of the Scottish Study of Early Learning & Childcare (SSELc); a research project established to evaluate the expansion of early learning and childcare (ELC) in Scotland. The findings on Parental Wellbeing have been updated to be based on 'Rasch-transformed' scores as is advised under the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scales (WEMWBS) licence, when they were originally published using raw Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale (SWEMWBS) scores.



[Coaching session to support managers](#)

Education Scotland and the General teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) have partnered to offer funded digital 1:1 Coaching sessions to support Early Learning and Childcare Managers in navigating the current challenges caused by COVID-19. The coaching offer has been developed through a collaboration of organisations involved in the Covid Education Recovery Workforce Support Group who plan and deliver work funded to support the health and wellbeing of the workforce through the pandemic.

Human rights

[Easy read version of National Taskforce report](#)

The Scottish Government has published an easy-read version of the recommendations in the National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership report.

Justice

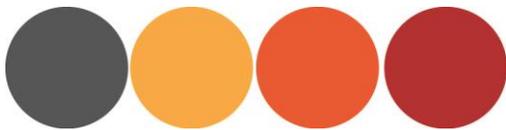
[Young children to receive free books at Children's Hearings](#)

Following a pilot with the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and the Scottish Book Trust, SCRA has announced that children five years old and younger will receive a free book every time they attend a Children's Hearing. Once a child receives their book in the Hearing centre, their parents/carers can sign up for the child to get one each month from the Imagination Library, supported by SCRA and Local Authorities.

Looked after and accommodated children

[Tackling narrative and perceptions around care experience](#)

The Centre for excellence for Children's Care and Protection (Celcis), along with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Life Changes Trust, The Robertson Trust, Social Work Scotland and The Scottish Government, are funding an initiative which aims to transform the current public narrative and perceptions around care and care experience by identifying and tackling challenging assumptions and attitudes. The initiative, 'Each and Every Child', has made a toolkit available to support people and organisations to shape how they speak, write and communicate about care experience in ways that have the potential to shift public attitudes and improve the life chances of care experienced people now and in the future.



Mental Health

[Survey suggests pandemic will have lasting impact on wellbeing](#)

A survey by Barnardo's suggested that children and young people's mental health and wellbeing is still being impacted by the COVID-19. As part of its 'Big Conversation', this is the second year of surveys and more than half of 16 – 24 year olds said they were feeling stressed (58%), worried (54%), sad (52%) and lonely (56%) more now than before the coronavirus pandemic.

Other Health and Social Care

[Estimates of child poverty \(England\)](#)

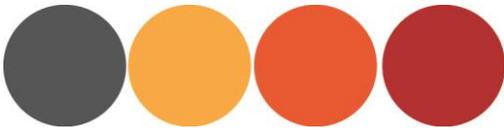
Loughborough University's Centre for Research in Social Policy has published a summary of estimates of child poverty after housing costs in local authorities and parliamentary constituencies for 2014/15 – 2019/20. This paper provides the latest update of local child poverty indicators after housing costs, summarising the dataset produced for End Child Poverty, taking account of higher or lower housing costs in each area, which give a more informative account of differences across place and time in the proportion of children in families with low disposable income.

Other

[Scottish Government confirms cabinet](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed the new cabinet following the election, consisting of ten Cabinet Secretaries, including the First Minister, and 15 Junior Ministers. Key appointments include:

- Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care – Humza Yousaf
- Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery – John Swinney
- Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills – Shirley-Anne Somerville
- Cabinet Secretary for Justice – Keith Brown
- Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government – Shona Robison
- Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy – Kate Forbes



Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

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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