




# Adult and Health



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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Over-40s encouraged to seek earlier second jab](#)

The Scottish Government has encouraged people over 40 whose second Covid-19 vaccination appointment is scheduled more than eight weeks after their first to seek an earlier slot. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended that the interval for second doses be brought forward from 12 to eight weeks where supply allows. A new vaccine journey tool on the NHS Inform website allows people to check the status of their second appointment.

### [Move to level 0 postponed](#)

In her latest statement to Parliament this week, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced that it is “unlikely” that any part of Scotland will move down a level in the Covid-19 framework from 28 June, as originally planned. She explained that the Scottish Government will instead opt to maintain restrictions for a further three weeks from 28 June and use that time to vaccinate as many more people as possible.



### [Auditor General publishes briefing on PPE management](#)

Audit Scotland has published a briefing on PPE planning by the Scottish Government and NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS) during the pandemic. The Auditor General for Scotland will be reporting further on PPE value for money following the completion of the 2020/21 audit of NHS NSS. Other key issues outlined in the briefing include how the Scottish Government did not fully implement recommendations from the pandemic preparedness exercises and could have done more to ensure access to PPE and training in how to use it.

### **Alcohol and Drugs**

#### [Alcohol consumption in Scotland falls to lowest level](#)

The Monitoring and Evaluating Scotland's Alcohol Strategy Monitoring Report for 2021 has been published by Public Health Scotland. The report shows that 2020 population-level alcohol consumption in Scotland – estimated from alcohol retail sales – fell to its lowest level in the available time series. The equivalent of an average consumption of 18 units per adult per week were sold, which still substantially exceeds the low risk weekly drinking guideline of 14 units. The volume of pure alcohol sold in Scotland was 6 per cent higher than in England and Wales, but this represents the smallest difference seen between the two areas.

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

#### [Updated guidance on face coverings in care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has published updated guidance on face covering and surgical mask use in hospitals, primary care, wider community care and adult care homes. The guidance confirms face coverings must be worn by residents in adult care homes when they are in communal spaces, unless exempt. The guidance recognises that some residents may require respite from wearing a mask for long periods of time and recommends they be supported to do so. For care at home, the guidance states people experiencing care in their own home are not required to wear a face covering “but should be encouraged to do so”.

#### [No plans to make vaccine compulsory for care home staff in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed there are no plans to make the Covid-19 vaccination of care home workers compulsory. It follows [reports by the BBC](#) that care home staff in England could face being redeployed away from front-line care or potentially losing their job if they do not have both jabs in time to meet Government regulations. Minister for Business Ivan McKee confirmed there were no plans to introduce such a policy in Scotland and highlighted the “fantastic” response from care home staff to the vaccination programme.



## Other Health and Social Care

### [Partnership Agreement between SSSC and the Care Inspectorate](#)

The SSSC and the Care Inspectorate have signed off a new strategic Partnership Agreement, which reflects our greater collaboration and joint working. The agreement sets out our common aims, values and vision for the future in these challenging yet promising times for the social care sector.

### [Recall of Co-codamol 30/500 Effervescent Tablets](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has announced that Co-codamol 30/500 effervescent tablets with the batch number 1K10121 are being urgently recalled, as they have been found to potentially have the wrong amount of active ingredients.

### [New president for nursing college](#)

It has been announced that Denise Chaffer has been elected the next President of the Royal College of Nursing. She will take up the role in July and serve until December 2022.

### [Committee of MPs criticise lack of adult social care reform \(England\)](#)

The Public Accounts Committee in the House of Commons has published a report on the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on the care sector. The report welcome short-term support for the sector from the UK Government but is critical of the lack of reform for adult social care over the last 20 years. The Committee also believes the Department of Health and Social Care has poor oversight of the care home system and "the risks of local market failure". A number of recommendations are made on improving transparency around care quality, support for the workforce and multi-year funding for the sector.

### [Social care data report from a series of forums](#)

Scottish Care has launched a report on their vision for social care data, bringing together the findings from a series of data forums. The report highlights the importance of a human rights-based perspective, enabling people to have control over their data and how it is shared to initiate care and support on their own terms.

### [Development of monitoring approach \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has issued a statement on how they are developing their monitoring approach and making changes to the way they regulate. The three key areas they are focusing on include:

- improving their ability to monitor risk to help us be more targeted in their regulatory activity
- bringing information together in one place for inspection teams, presented in a way that supports inspectors with their decision making



- testing elements of how they want to work in the future, including how they provide a more up-to-date view of risk for people who use services

### **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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