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Covid-19 - General

[Major Covid-19 restrictions to end 9 August](#)

The First Minister has confirmed Scotland is seeking to remove all major legal Covid restrictions from Monday 9 August. Current levels will remain in place for the next three weeks, while the whole of Scotland will move to level 0 on Monday 19 July if all necessary vaccination and harm reduction measures are met. The First Minister also confirmed that from Monday 19 July physical distancing requirements will be removed outdoors and will reduce to one metre indoors if the data allows. Limits on outdoor gatherings will also be removed on this date given the reduced risk of outdoor transmission. The Government has also published an update to the [strategic framework](#) for its Covid-19 response and its [review of physical distancing](#).

[Coronavirus \(Extension and Expiry\) \(Scotland\) Bill passed](#)

The Scottish Government's Coronavirus (Extension and Expiry) (Scotland) Bill has been passed after being fast-tracked through the Scottish Parliament. The Bill will extend Part 1 of both the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 and Coronavirus (No. 2) (Scotland) Act 2020 until 31 March 2022. The Bill also expires certain changes made in Part 1 of each of the Scottish Acts so that these will not continue to be the law after 30 September 2021. Following debate and amendment, it was agreed that the fortnightly monitoring and weekly reporting of deaths in care homes would be suspended rather than expired. Provisions on electronic notices by the Care Inspectorate and powers to acquire a care home are among those to be extended.



[Letter on vaccination access for health and social care frontline staff](#)

The Scottish Government has issued a letter with information on the processes for scheduling vaccinations of the frontline health and social care workforce. This particularly relates to those new to a service since the commencement of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (those not already vaccinated as part of the JCVI priority group, or within their age range).

[Care Inspectorate report to the Scottish Parliament on inspections, 23 June 2021](#)

The Care Inspectorate has laid before the Scottish Parliament a report of inspections it has carried out in care services in the past two weeks. This report covers inspections we have completed since those detailed in our previous report to Parliament on 9 June 2021.

Child Protection

[Campaign launched to raise awareness of signs of abuse or neglect](#)

A new school holiday campaign is being launched this week by Child Protection Committees Scotland urging everyone to be alert for clues that a child may have experienced harm, neglect or abuse during the pandemic. The 'For Kids' Sake' campaign encourages everyone to look out for signs that a child has been abused or neglected and how you can take action to get support for that child.

[New visual information guide for children participating in a virtual Hearing](#)

A new visual information guide for children and young people participating in a virtual Hearing has been published by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA). SCRA is hoping that parents/carers, social workers and advocacy workers will use the guides to help prepare children and young people before they come to their virtual Hearing.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Revised Covid-19 guidance for childcare providers](#)

The Scottish Government's Early Learning and Childcare Directorate has published a note for all childcare providers on revised Covid-19 guidance. Settings can begin applying the new guidance from Monday 5 July. To allow time for planning and staff training and, if this is preferred, to allow settings to make changes gradually, settings will have a further 14 days in which move to the new guidance. This means that by Monday 19 July all settings should be following the new guidance.

[Update to Covid-19 guidance for school age childcare for summer holidays](#)

The Scottish Government has updated the current guidance for school age childcare services to include additional information on summer holiday childcare. A short-life annex refers to and summarises links to existing guidance documents which are



relevant for school age childcare services who are offering summer holiday childcare. It summarises guidance referring to trips, activities, meals and snacks and the consistency of cohorts.

[ELC National Induction Resource updated](#)

An updated version of the Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) National Induction Resource has been published by the Scottish Government. The guidance is designed to support individuals in their induction to delivering ELC, setting out how individuals can expect employers to support them in their new role.

Education

[Scottish Government accepts recommendations of CfE review](#)

The Scottish Government has accepted the recommendations of a report analysing the implementation and progress of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report suggests that CfE continues to be “a bold and widely supported initiative” but that the approach to ongoing implementation has “lacked structure and long-term perspective”. The Scottish Government has accepted in full all 12 recommendations and has published its response, including plans to “move the role of inspection out of Education Scotland in a way that maximizes impact and helps to balance the dual need for local flexibility of provision alongside national consistency in outcomes”.

Mental Health

[New online resource for school staff to support young people’s mental health](#)

An online resource will be available for school staff to support young people’s mental health by learning about factors influencing mental health and wellbeing, prevention-based approaches in schools and tips on how to end mental health stigma and discrimination. The Mental Health Foundation, Children's Health Scotland and training provider Digital Bricks developed the resource that is open to all school staff in primary, secondary and special schools.

[Review of eating disorder services published](#)

The National Review of Eating Disorder Services in Scotland has published its full report and recommendations. The report is expected to be the first step in a phased program, with a second phase of improvement work being guided by the review’s findings and recommendations. The report sets out how the review was conducted and details 15 recommendations, including several aimed at integration authorities.



Other Health and Social Care

[Consultation on draft guide for care homes](#)

The Care Inspectorate has launched two consultations on the drafts of our design guides for care homes - one for adult care homes and one for children and young people care homes. We would like to hear from all those with an interest in these topics. The consultations, which run until 18 July, are the first to feature on our new consultation website. Anyone can sign up to take part, give their views and receive updates on these and future consultation projects.

[SSSC adds new strategic outcome promoting value of the workforce](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has introduced a new outcome to its strategic plan to promote the value placed on the social work, social care and early years workforce. The outcome, added to the SSSC Strategic Plan 2020-23, is designed to reflect and build on the wider recognition of the social work, social care and early years workforce which has emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Report on welfare policy raises concerns for Scottish Child Payments](#)

The UK Government's Scottish Affairs Committee has published a report considering welfare policy in Scotland, which includes a call for improved information sharing and working together to improve benefit take-up. The Committee also calls on the UK Government to find a solution to providing Social Security Scotland with data to enable Scottish Child Payments are distributed to families for 6 to 16-year olds. Without this data, the Scottish Government would be unable to deliver its commitment to extend the child benefit to this age group.

[Progress report on delivery plan to tackle child poverty](#)

The Scottish Government has published the third annual progress report on its tackling child poverty delivery plan. The report notes that, despite the pausing of key activity being necessitated due to Covid-19, all actions reported on last year were either in progress or had been delivered. The range of additional measures to support people during the pandemic are also reflected in the report.

[Survey of children's social care settings \(England\)](#)

Ofsted has published its annual survey of children's social care settings, exploring the views of children in residential care and living away from home, and those of their carers. This year's survey also asked children about their experiences of the pandemic, and how they felt about the care they were given, and their responses indicate that a lot of children would like Covid-19 to 'go away', but they also said that they had been helped to adjust to the restrictions by the people who cared for them.



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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