




Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Self-registration vaccine portal now available to over 18s](#)

The Scottish Government has highlighted that a self-registration portal to sign up for Covid-19 vaccinations is now available to all over 18s. Anyone who missed their first dose for any reason is being invited to self-register.

[Latest pandemic modelling statistics released](#)

The Scottish Government has published the latest modelling of the epidemic in Scotland up to 21 June. The R rate in Scotland is currently estimated as being between 1.1 and 1.3 and the growth rate is estimated as being between 2% and 4%. The number of new daily infections for Scotland is estimated as being between 50 and 63, per 100,000 people.

The latest [state of the epidemic report](#) has also been published, noting that an average of 1,821 Scottish cases were reported per day in the seven days to Thursday 24 June.

[Interim advice on Covid booster vaccination issued](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has issued interim advice on Covid-19 booster vaccinations, recommending that any booster programme should be offered in two stages from September. This would start with those most at risk from serious disease and include care home residents, people aged over 70, frontline health and social care workers, clinically extremely vulnerable adults and those who are immunosuppressed. Stage two would be offered as soon as practicable afterwards and alongside the flu vaccination programme.



Covid-19 – General

[New survey explores the rate of Covid reinfection](#)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published the findings of a survey exploring the rate of reinfection among participants of a Covid-19 infection survey. It estimates on average 15.2 reinfections occurred for every 100,000 cumulative days in which participants were at risk, with the risk of a strong positive test standing at 2.7 per 100,000 cumulative days of participant risk. Researchers also found individuals were more likely to report symptoms in their initial infection episode (57.1%) within a 35 day period than during their reinfection episode (21.8%).

[Additional funding for adult social care services \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health & Social Care has announced an additional £250m has been allocated to adult social care services to continue Covid-19 protection measures. Made up of £142.5m in Infection Control Funding and £108.8m for testing, the fund will help protect people in adult social care by continuing to meet the cost of infection prevention and control measures and supporting rapid testing of staff to prevent transmission.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Conservatives launch new Right to Recovery Bill proposal](#)

The Scottish Conservatives have launched their proposal for a Right to Recovery Bill to tackle Scotland's drug death crisis. The Bill proposes measures to stop people being refused residential rehabilitation treatment and enshrine in law that everyone has the right to the necessary addiction treatment they require. It also notes general principles on ensuring timely access to an individual's preferred treatment option and further involving medical professionals in decision-making around treatment. Leader of the Scottish Conservatives, Douglas Ross has urged the SNP Government to back the Bill.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Additional care home Covid data published](#)

The Scottish Government has published weekly additional data on Covid-19 in adult care homes in Scotland. Between Monday 21 and Sunday 27 June, there were no deaths in care homes attributable to confirmed or suspected Covid-19. As of Monday 28 June, the proportion of all Scottish adult care homes facilitating indoor visits was 87%.

[Open with Care progress report published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a progress report on its Open with Care guidance for supporting meaningful contact in care homes, published in February 2021. The report found that by late March, over 90% of care homes supported



contact for residents indoors and at 14 June, 97% of all responding care homes reported indoor visiting was underway. The report also identifies key areas of action where care homes and partners can best improve and embed good quality, meaningful contact as the norm, noting that these should focus on:

- Care homes improving, maximising and embedding meaningful contact
- Local system support and monitoring to maximise contact
- Strengthening awareness and adoption of Open with Care.

The Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care, the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland, and Social Work Scotland have also issued a [joint statement](#) in support of the Open with Care guidance.

[New hospital to care home guidance](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has produced information for social workers involved in hospital discharges to help promote consistent practice when moving people to care homes, following concerns raised by the Mental Welfare Commission. The SSSC have said that the guide is not intended to replace any local good practice or training on this topic, and national and local policies should remain the main source of information on safe hospital discharges. The guide is part of a range of resources that the SSSC have developed with other partners to support the workforce during the pandemic.

[Independent Sector Nursing Data Report published](#)

Scottish Care has published the Independent Sector Nursing Data Report 2021, providing an updated view of nursing in care homes and in the independent social care sector in Scotland. The report hopes the research conducted will lead to collaborative working around some practical solutions to address the challenges experienced by providers, as well as to the continued learning and development of the nursing and care workforce.

Disability

[Analysis of responses to Adult Disability Payment regulations published](#)

The Scottish Government has published an analysis of responses to the consultation on Adult Disability Payment regulations, undertaken between Monday 21 December and Monday 15 March. The report notes that eligibility rules for Adult Disability Payment will remain largely the same as under Personal Independence Payment; however, the government will make changes to the application and decision-making processes for delivery of payments. In [response](#) to the report, the government has noted the importance of designing the system with individuals, organisations, and groups that have experience of the social security system.



Older People

[New survey highlights “lockdown loneliness epidemic”](#)

Age Scotland is warning of an “epidemic of loneliness”, as new research reveals the impact of the pandemic on older people. Data released from the charity’s ‘Big Survey’ conducted with ScotInForm, found that 10% of people over 50 – an estimated 218,000 in Scotland – say they feel lonely most or all of the time, with the figure rising to 17% among those who live alone. In addition, more than half (53%) of respondents said that lockdown had made them lonelier, rising to 65% among those living alone. The charity is urging people to reach out to those at risk of loneliness in their community and end the stigma around talking about it.

[Calls for housing needs of Scotland’s ageing population to be addressed](#)

Age Scotland has called for health and social care services to be fully equipped and planning ahead on how to address the housing and population needs of Scotland’s ageing population, following data released by National Records of Scotland which showed the number of people aged over 65 has increased by 256,600 over the last 20 years. The housing figures also show that around a third of households in Scotland consist of just one person, amounting to 900,000 people living alone. All 32 Scottish council areas have seen an increase in their population aged 65 and over in the last decade, with the greatest increases occurring in West Lothian, Orkney Islands and Clackmannanshire.

Other Health and Social Care

[£8 million investment in wellbeing for health and social care staff](#)

The Scottish Government has announced an £8 million package to support the wellbeing of health and social care staff. The increased support will help fund a number of immediate recovery actions and lead to the development of a National Wellbeing programme. Social care and primary care will be targeted with £2 million of support in recognition of the specific needs of staff working in those services in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Care procurement best practice guidance published](#)

The Scottish Government has published best practice guidance for public bodies on procurement of care and support services from external suppliers. The guidance, originally published in March 2016, has been updated to reflect changes that have occurred as a result of the UK’s formal exit from the EU. It has been developed to support all staff involved in the procurement of these services, as well as regulators and those responsible for auditing the commissioning of services.

[Personal assistants to receive £500 payment](#)

An online portal has been launched for more than 10,000 Personal Assistants to ensure they receive the £500 bonus payment for health and social care workers. The Personal Assistant workforce, who are employed directly by disabled people for



whom they provide support to enable them to live independently, are the last remaining group to receive the bonus, which was announced in November 2020.

[Shaping the delivery of digital programmes across health and care](#)

The ALLIANCE Digital Health and Care team is leading engagement activity that will shape and inform the delivery of digital programmes and approaches across health, care and housing in Scotland. A [Digital Citizen Panel](#) is being created to support the work of the Digital Citizen Delivery Board, which aims to empower citizens to better manage their health and wellbeing, support independent living, and gain access to services through digital technologies.

Other

[Scottish Parliament consults to shape future committee business](#)

The Scottish Parliament is seeking views on a range of issues, including Covid-19 recovery, education and health and social care. Those responding to the consultation can choose from topics already set up in the consultation or add topics of their own. The responses will be used to shape the work carried out by committees in the new parliamentary session. The consultation will be open for submissions until **Friday 30 July**.

[Consultation on double payment of Carer's Allowance](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Social Justice & Social Security Committee has launched a consultation on the Carer's Allowance Supplement (Scotland) Bill which intends to replicate a 'double payment' of the Carer's Allowance Supplement in December 2021, as was initially facilitated by the Coronavirus (Scotland) (No.2) Act 2020. Separately from this Bill, the Scottish Government plans to introduce a new benefit called Scottish Carer's Assistance. This future benefit would support carers and replace Carer's Allowance and this supplement. The consultation will be open for submissions until **12 August 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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