



Covid-19 – General

[Coronavirus update and Omicron variant](#)

Delivering an update to the Scottish Parliament, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has stated that early indications of the Omicron variant have raised concern it may be more transmissible than Delta and could pose increased risk of infection. However, the First Minister stressed there were no signs at present to suggest symptoms were more severe. A red list of ten countries across southern Africa are confirmed as being added to the travel red list and anyone travelling into Scotland from outside the Common Travel Area would be required to take a PCR test on the second day of arrival.

[Expansion of vaccination programme](#)

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised the COVID-19 vaccination programme be expanded to offer booster doses to everyone aged 18 or older, a second booster dose be provided to those who are severely immunosuppressed and second doses be given to those aged 12 to 15 three months after their first as part of the government's efforts to tackle the Omicron variant.

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[Transparent face masks introduced](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that transparent face masks, which feature a clear front panel to enable lip reading, have been approved for use in health and social care settings. NHS National Services Scotland began distributing the masks to Health Boards in November, and they will be in use from early December onwards.

[Rights impact assessment for Vaccination Certification](#)

A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) has been published by the Scottish Government, analysing the potential impact both positive and negative, of the domestic use of Covid Vaccine Certification on the promotion of children's rights and wellbeing.

Disabilities

[Marking International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

The Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland's Young Adviser Beth marks International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a blog on upholding the rights of disabled people. The blog discusses rights, resources, and inclusivity in education.

Early Learning and Childcare

[Association on reducing childminders' workloads](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) has provided an update on their action to reduce childminders' workloads, including their submission to the Expert Group on Education Reform on the impact of bureaucracy, and a recommendation for "a single or shared inspection covering both early childcare (Care Inspectorate) and learning (Education Scotland)". The SCMA also provide information on their upcoming action.

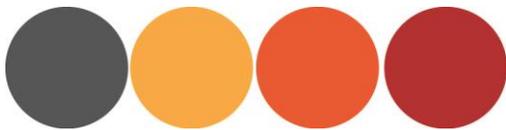
Other Health and Social Care

[Baby Box scheme reaches 200,000 boxes delivered](#)

The Scottish Government reports that the number of Baby Boxes delivered to expectant parents has reached 200,000. Last year, 98% of expectant parents requested a Baby Box, an increase from 85% when first launched in 2017.

[Child Poverty in Scotland since the 1960s](#)

The Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe) has published an overview of child poverty in Scotland from the early 1960s, when data collection for Great Britain began, to the present day. This briefing considers various approaches to measuring



child poverty in Scotland, namely by expenditure, by income, by the median and by material deprivation. It also details an increasing interest in food insecurity, and describes the difficulties of measuring child poverty at the sub-national level.

[Reflecting on MyLearning app](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) has reflected on the year since the launch of their MyLearning app, including number of users and recorded learning logs, feedback received, and planned updates.

[Renewed commitment to young people in the Scottish Parliament](#)

The Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament have signed a Working in Partnership agreement, renewing the commitment for young people to play a key role in Scottish politics. The agreement includes the Scottish Parliament hosting a sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament once every two years; developing relationships between Members of both Parliaments; ensuring young people can contribute to committee inquiries and providing opportunities for both staff teams to connect with each other to identify opportunities for collaboration.

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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