




# Adult and Health



[Covid-19 - General](#)

[Alcohol and Drugs](#)

[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)

[Mental Health](#)

[Other Health & Social Care](#)

## Covid-19 - General

### [Vaccine booster now available for 30–39-year-olds](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that 30-39 year olds can now book their appointment for a Covid-19 booster through the NHS Inform website, with 18-29 year olds able to book from later this week. The government advises that booster vaccination appointments must be booked at least 12 weeks after the second dose and anyone with a confirmed case of the virus should wait four weeks from testing positive before they receive their booster.

### [New restrictions for businesses to minimise risk of transmission](#)

The First Minister has announced that businesses will be required to take measures to minimise the risk of transmission, with guidance from the government to be issued later this week. In a statement to Parliament, the First Minister confirmed that speeding up vaccinations is a top priority for the government and urged people to minimise social mixing with other households in the run up to and aftermath of Christmas, and to continue regular testing. The First Minister also highlighted that household contacts of a person who tests positive for Covid, are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. This advice applies to everyone in a household regardless of age, vaccination status or PCR test result. [Guidance for businesses](#) has been published.



### [Covid-19 Public Inquiry formally established with terms of reference published](#)

Deputy First Minister John Swinney has announced the establishment of a statutory inquiry to examine the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic in Scotland and confirmed that Lady Poole QC will chair the inquiry. In a statement to Parliament, Mr Swinney stated that the purpose of the inquiry was two-fold: to provide scrutiny and answers to the questions that people have about how the pandemic has been handled in Scotland; and to learn lessons, so that we can be as ready as possible to respond to future pandemics. The terms of reference have also been published, setting out 12 areas of investigation. This includes care and nursing homes, specifically the transfer of residents to or from care homes, treatment and care of residents, restrictions on visiting, infection prevention and control and changes to inspections.

The period covered by the inquiry will be from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022 and will also consider pandemic planning undertaken prior to this.

### [Chair of UK Covid-19 inquiry](#)

The Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced the Rt Hon Baroness Heather Hallett DBE as the Chair of the forthcoming public inquiry into the Covid-19 pandemic. The Inquiry, set to begin its work in spring 2022, will be established under the Inquiries Act 2005, and there will be consultation with the devolved administrations on the terms of reference for the Inquiry. Once the terms of reference have been published in draft, Baroness Hallett will take forward a process of public engagement and consultation - including with bereaved families and other affected groups - before the terms of reference are finalised.

### [Evidence paper on the Omicron variant in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published an evidence paper with information on the new Covid-19 variant, omicron, highlighting what we currently know about the variant and its potential implications.

### [£220 million in additional funding for Scottish Government to progress vaccine rollout](#)

The UK Government has confirmed £430 in additional funding for devolved administrations to progress their vaccine rollout and wider Covid-19 response. The Scottish Government will receive £220 million, the Welsh Government £135 million, and the Northern Ireland Executive £75 million. This is additional funding on top of the funding set out at the Autumn Budget 2021.

## **Alcohol and Drugs**

### [Scottish Government publishes report on suspected drug deaths in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has published a report on suspected drug deaths in Scotland for the period July to September 2021. The report notes that for quarter 3 of the calendar year, there were 285 suspected drug deaths, 13% (44) fewer than the previous calendar quarter (April to June 2021), and 10% (31) fewer than during the same calendar quarter in the previous year (July to September 2020).



## Care Homes/Care at Home

### [Minimising the risk of Covid-19 for the care at home sector](#)

The Scottish Government has published letters to the care at home, housing support and supported housing sectors highlighting measures that should be taken to minimise Covid-19 transmission during the winter period. The letter includes infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance and encourages uptake of the booster vaccination. The letters also highlight that all contacts, including health and social care staff, of the omicron variant are required to self-isolate for 10 days and will not be able to exit isolation early with a negative PCR test and daily LFD tests.

### [Updated guidance on visiting care homes](#)

The Scottish Government has updated guidance for visitors to hospitals and adult care homes. Under new guidelines no more than two households should meet with a resident at any one time inside the care home and residents are asked to avoid larger gatherings when visiting friends and family outwith the care home. Staff testing has increased to daily and all visitors should test before every visit. As before named visitors can still be supported to visit residents in care homes with a controlled COVID-19 outbreak if the local Health Protection Team has agreed this can happen.

## Mental Health

### [Mental Welfare Commission Annual Report published](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission has published its annual report for 2020-21 setting out how it adapted its work during the pandemic and outlining its activities in the last year. This includes regular Covid advice notes, a report on women with mental ill health in Cornton Vale prison, reporting on the legality of moves of people from hospital to care homes during the pandemic and increased activity in monitoring the use of the Mental Health Act during the pandemic. The commission also reports a higher-than-average rise in the number of detentions this year and raises concerns over how the Act is used when people are detained.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [IRISS launches survey for social workers and people who use social work or care](#)

Iriss has launched a survey asking those who work in social work and people who use social work and care services on what they can do better to assist them. The survey includes four questions and will be used to ensure their work is focused in the right areas.

### [CQC postpones inspections to support acceleration of booster programme \(England\)](#)

The Care Quality Commission has announced that it will postpone onsite inspections of acute hospitals, ambulance services and general practice for the next three weeks, except in cases where there is evidence of risk to life, or immediate risk of



serious harm to people. This decision has been taken to support the acceleration of the vaccine booster programme. The CQC will continue risk-based inspection activity in other sectors, including adult social care, mental health, independent health and dentists.

### **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.

It should also be noted that the Care Inspectorate has no liability in respect of the content of external websites which may be signposted on this site.