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Covid-19 - General

[Scottish Government consults on covid protection measures](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a short survey on people's experiences of covid protective measures and regulations – what they found easy, difficult and thoughts for the year ahead. The survey closes on 13 February and an easy read version is also available.

[Voluntary scheme encourages people to be distance aware](#)

The Scottish Government has joined the Distance Aware scheme set up by the Bevan Commission and adapted it, following research which showed that almost three quarters of people on the Highest Risk List said they would like to signal to others to give them extra space. The scheme is a voluntary initiative to help those previously shielding or anyone who feels worried about mixing with others as the country adapts to living with Covid-19. Free badges and lanyards will be available for people who wish to show others they would welcome additional space and extra care while out in public.

[Hybrid working to return from 31 January](#)

During a statement to Parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced that businesses can prepare to resume hybrid working from Monday 31 January, enabling more people to have a flexible return to working between home and the office.



Covid-19 – General

[Coronavirus \(Recovery & Reform\) \(Scotland\) Bill introduced](#)

Legislation proposing the permanent adoption or temporary extension of some measures enacted during the Covid-19 pandemic has been introduced by the Scottish Government. The Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill proposes changes in 30 specific legislative areas, which were modified by temporary provisions made under Scottish and UK coronavirus legislation. This includes maintaining provisions that enable Scottish Ministers to enact measures via public health regulations for any future public health threats.

The Bill also includes a provision for giving of notices to care services, which ensures that the Care Inspectorate can continue to issue formal notices to care service providers by electronic means on a permanent basis. Further aims of this provision are to improve certainty of delivery and ensure that physical delivery of formal notices by the Care Inspectorate to corporate bodies can continue to be delivered to a wider range of persons acting on the body's behalf.

[Government consultation on future PPE supplies in Scotland](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation seeking views on the proposed new strategic arrangements for pandemic PPE supply in Scotland, specifically public sector collaboration on PPE supply, future stockpiling arrangements, and how it can support private and third sector organisations in the event of a future pandemic. The consultation will run until 22 March, with the government aiming to have a clear strategy in place by the end of March, and an implementation plan prepared, with practical implementation to begin in the course of the year.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Parliamentary committees to look at tackling drug deaths and problem drug use](#)

The Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee, Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, and Social Justice and Social Security Committee are coming together to hold two special sessions looking at the actions taken to reduce drugs deaths and problem drug use in Scotland. The sessions, which will question the Scottish and UK Governments, as well as the new Chair of the Scottish Drugs Deaths Taskforce (SDDT), will seek to focus on what progress has been made and actions taken so far, including implementation of SDDT's recommendations, as well as what more can be done. The two sessions will take place on 1st and 2nd February.

[Listening to people with Lived and Living Experience](#)

A new National Collaborative will bring together people who have been affected by drugs to make recommendations to the Scottish Government about changes to services which could improve and save lives. This will see the rights of people affected by substance use being recognised in all relevant policy and practice in



accordance with the new human rights framework for Scotland. The Collaborative will be chaired by human rights law expert Professor Alan Miller.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[Covid guidance updated for care at home, housing support and supported housing](#)

The Scottish Government has published a summary of updated guidance sent, in letters, to the care at home, housing support, supported housing and building-based day services sectors highlighting measures that should be taken to minimise the risk of Covid-19, including the Omicron variant.

Justice

[Panel to assess needs of women in the justice system](#)

A new Scottish Government panel will consider gender inequality and improving women's experiences within the justice system. The Women's Justice Leadership Panel, chaired by Community Safety Minister Ash Regan, will examine the experiences of women both as victims and offenders in a range of settings including policing, community justice, criminal and civil courts, tribunals and prisons. Key issues for the panel include how women experience the Scottish justice system differently from men, international and UK examples of where women's needs are better met and how to address under-representation of women in senior leadership roles.

Workforce

[RCN Nursing Awards launched](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) nursing awards are open for entries, with applications invited from nurses, students and nursing support workers to share their innovation and expertise and celebrate their contribution to improving care and outcomes. Entries are open to individuals and teams across the UK in 13 categories. The deadline for entries is 25 March.

Other Health and Social Care

[Audit briefing calls for action to address social care issues](#)

A briefing highlighting "fundamental issues and threats to the future sustainability of Scotland's social care system" has been published by the Accounts Commission and Auditor General for Scotland. Key findings include limited progress in moving to more preventative approaches to delivering social care and a workforce which is under "immense pressure" and not adequately valued or rewarded. The briefing highlights reforms underway, including The Promise and the development of a National Care Service, but suggests there is a need to identify changes that can be taken forward now, without legislation.



[Review of social care data 'landscape' ahead of National Care Service](#)

The Scottish Government is to commission a series of studies into how data is used across social care in Scotland and examine what really matters to people experiencing care as part of preparations for a National Care Service. In a letter to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee, Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care Kevin Stewart, reported that work is being commissioned in three areas:

- what digital approaches, services and products have enabled similar services outside of Scotland and what lessons can be learned from both successful and unsuccessful digital projects and programmes
- user research to explore how people experience interacting with services in Scotland, and is particularly focussed on what data is important to them
- a review of the technology, service and digital architectural landscape across the public, private and third sector organisations who are involved in the delivery of social care services in Scotland to understand what will and will not work in the system.

[Latest issue of Involve published](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published the latest edition of its Involve newsletter, highlighting what our involvement and equalities team and volunteers have been working on over the last six months. If you would like to find out more about our volunteering opportunities visit [our website](#) or get in touch by emailing get.involved@careinspectorate.gov.scot

[Care Inspectorate quarter 3 statistical summary report published](#)

The Care Inspectorate's statistical summary report for quarter 3 of 2021/22 has been released. The report presents data on the number of registered care services, new registrations and cancellations, complaints about care services and quality theme grades all by care service type and or service sector. This is updated on a quarterly basis.

[COSLA conference to go ahead online](#)

The COSLA and Improvement Service Annual Conference 2022, due to take place at Crieff Hydro, will now take place online on Friday 25 February, with the Excellence Awards taking place the previous day. The theme for this year's conference is "[Live Well Locally](#)", with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, addressing delegates on the Thursday. A party political session on Friday will include MSPs Shona Robison (SNP), Patrick Harvie (Green), Miles Briggs (Conservative), Anas Sarwar (Labour) and Alex Cole-Hamilton (Lib Dem).

[Adult Disability Payment FAQs published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a series of frequently asked questions and answers for the Adult Disability Payment, the new Scottish benefit which will replace Personal Independence Payment and be delivered by Social Security Scotland.



Other

[Scottish Government consultation guidance](#)

The Scottish Government has published public guidance for consultations. It details what consultations are and can be used for, how responses are used and reported and the benefits and limitations of consultations.

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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