


Adult
and
Health[Covid-19 - General](#)[Alcohol and Drugs](#)[Alzheimer's/Dementia](#)[Care Homes/Care at Home](#)[Mental Health](#)[Other Health & Social Care](#)**Covid-19 - General**[Updated guidance on face coverings in social care settings](#)

The updated guidance states that all health and social care staff and visiting professionals to social care settings should continue to follow infection prevention and control guidance. This includes the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Visitors to an individual's own home, and supported housing settings are not required to wear face coverings but are advised to use 'covid sense' in order to protect themselves and others.

The Scottish Government has also updated [Covid-19 guidance for unpaid carers](#), removing sections from Staying Safe to align with easing of protective measures.

[UK Health Security Agency has updated Covid-19 variants of concern](#)

The agency has published their latest update of genomically confirmed case numbers for variants of concern and variants under investigation. The publication includes a breakdown of numbers for the whole of the UK and for the 4 devolved administrations.



[Scottish Government announce end of the highest risk list](#)

The Government has announced the Highest Risk List, previously known as the Shielding List, will formally end on Tuesday 31 May. The decision comes after a [review of clinical evidence](#) showing that for the majority of those on the list the risk of hospitalisation or death from Covid-19 has been significantly reduced and is no greater than that of the general public.

[Stay at home message to replace self-isolation](#)

The Scottish Government has confirmed that from Sunday 1 May public health advice will change to a stay at home message, which replaces self-isolation for people who have symptoms or have tested positive for Covid-19. People who have symptoms of Covid-19 and who have a fever or are too unwell to carry out normal activities will be asked to 'stay at home' while they are unwell or have a fever. They will no longer be advised to take a PCR test. [Guidance explaining the changes](#) has also been published.

[Findings on the impact of the Distance Aware initiative published](#)

The Scottish Government has published its findings from an online survey conducted to evaluate the uptake, perceived benefits, and impact of the Distance Aware initiative amongst people on the Highest Risk List. The findings show that 87% of respondents were aware of the scheme, with 84% reporting that they were informed about the scheme through letters received from the Chief Medical Officer. Only 28% of survey respondents said that they decided to get a Distance Aware badge or lanyard, with the top reasons for deciding not to being that they didn't think a badge or lanyard would change people's behaviour.

Alcohol and Drugs

[Call for views on recommendations by Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) have invited their members to share their views on the progress made to implement the recommendations set out by the Scottish Drug Deaths Taskforce. SASW will respond to the consultation as a professional association and have asked members to complete their survey by Tuesday 3 May, in order to help shape SASW's consultation response.

Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Updated Covid-19 guidance on living with dementia in care homes](#)

The updated guidance notes that a number of measures, including self-isolation in care homes, continue to be in place to minimise the risk of the spread of Covid-19 to people who remain at higher risk of poor outcomes. The guidance has been developed for care home staff to support residents who are isolated in their rooms as per Public Health Scotland guidance, noting that people who are living with dementia



may find it difficult to understand why they should remain in their room. It outlines the scenarios when self-isolation is necessary in care homes and provides guidance on supporting someone safely during this time.

[New dementia resources for the deaf community](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) have highlighted the work of the British Deaf Association (BDA) in developing a deaf dementia toolkit to support people on their deaf dementia journey. The BDA have also developed 9 new British Sign Language (BSL) videos that focus on making environments dementia friendly. The videos are split into different areas around the home/ care home and include an introduction to dementia design.

[New tool for designing for dementia and ageing](#)

The Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) have announced that their new Environments for Ageing and Dementia Assessment Tool will replace the DSDC's current tool for designing for dementia and ageing. The new tool reflects the advances in understanding of dementia design. Details for the launch of the new tool will be announced soon.

[Funding awarded to support dementia-friendly communities](#)

Age Scotland has highlighted the 5 projects that were successful in their application for funding from the Empowering Dementia Friendly Communities fund. The fund, a partnership between the Scottish Government and Age Scotland's About Dementia project, will support the development of meeting centres and dementia friendly communities across the country between 2022 and 2023.

Care Homes/Care at Home

[High Court rules against UK Government in Covid discharge case \(England\)](#)

UK Government policies relating to the discharge of patients from hospitals to care homes in England at the start of the Covid pandemic were unlawful as they "failed to take into account the risk to elderly and vulnerable residents from non-symptomatic transmission", the High Court has ruled. According to the judges, "it was irrational...not to have advised until mid-April 2020 that where an asymptomatic patient (other than one who had tested negative for COVID19) was admitted to a care home, he or she should, so far as practicable, be kept apart from other residents for 14 days". The court dismissed the other aspects of the case brought by the Claimants, including claims under Articles 2 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and a claim against NHS England.

Mental Health

[New report calls for urgent action on the care of prisoners with mental ill health](#)

Following visits to all 15 of Scotland's prisons. the Mental Welfare Commission has called for urgent action on the care and treatment of prisoners with mental ill health



in Scotland's prisons. The Commission notes its concern about the use of segregation for prisoners with mental health and reports that 10 of the prisoners they visited were segregated. It also noted that staff working in those units reported that they felt 'ill-equipped to manage severely mentally unwell prisoners'. The report makes a number of recommendations including that Scottish Prison Service (SPS) and the NHS should undertake a training needs analysis and training implementation plan to support staff.

[Deadline extended for consultation on mental health and wellbeing plan \(England\)](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care has extended the deadline for its consultation of a new 10-year mental health and wellbeing plan. The call for evidence will close on 7 July 2022.

Other Health and Social Care

[Morning programme announced for celebrating nursing in social care event](#)

Scottish Care have published their morning programme for their virtual event Celebrating Nursing in Social Care. The event will take place on 12 May 2022 to celebrate International Nurses Day and will be hosted by Dr Jane Douglas.

[The role of Police Scotland added to online learning hub](#)

The Public Health Scotland (PHS) online learning hub now includes a section on the role of Police Scotland in delivering public health services. PHS said that the new section aims to showcase the important role the police have in helping to improve health and will strengthen learning about factors that affect health.

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.