



care  
inspectorate

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bulletin



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## **Covid-19 - General**

### [Stay at home guidance replaces self-isolation rules](#)

The Scottish Government has updated Covid-19 guidance on staying safe and protecting others from the virus. Those who are unwell with Covid-19 symptoms or have a high temperature are advised to follow '[Stay at Home](#)' guidance. The guidance notes that from 1 May free Covid-19 testing is no longer available for most people, however testing will still be available for specific groups in order to protect high risk settings.

### [Covid-19 advice to help those on the highest risk list](#)

The Covid-19 highest risk list is due to end on 31 May 2022. The Scottish Government has updated guidance to provide people who are on the list with advice to help them make informed decisions and access support services. The guidance includes advice on shopping, working and financial support.



### [Update to reporting of Covid-19](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has updated how Covid-19 will be reported on since the lifting of restrictions and isolation from 1 May 2022. PHS is moving towards weekly Covid-19 reporting, which is typical for respiratory infection surveillance and is more appropriate as the country transitions from the emergency response phase of the pandemic to living with endemic Covid-19. From 9 May 2022, the [PHS COVID-19 dashboard](#) will be updated on Mondays and Thursdays, before moving to weekly updates on a Wednesday from June.

### [Unpaid Carers advice updated](#)

The Scottish Government has published an update to advice for unpaid carers to reflect the change in Covid-19 isolation and restrictions. The new update includes information about vaccinations and isolation rules.

### [Self-isolation support grant guidance updated](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its guidance covering the Scottish Welfare Fund and self-isolation support grant. From 1 May 2022, eligibility for the self-isolation support grant changed to reflect updated self-isolation and testing requirements. The value of the self-isolation support grant has been reduced from £500 to £225 to better reflect the loss of income and align with the health policy intention to transition workers back to pre-Covid sickness arrangements.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

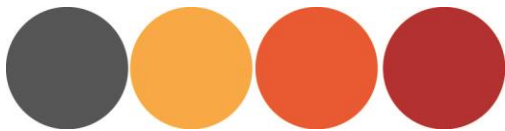
### [ELC Covid-19 guidance update](#)

The Scottish Government has updated its Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Covid-19 guidance to reflect recent changes to testing and isolation requirements for ELC settings. The provider notice sets out:

- details of the new 'Stay at Home' guidance and the changes made to guidance to reflect this and other policy updates since the last iteration
- changes to the self-isolation support grant
- arrangements for dealing with any surplus stocks of LFD tests
- an invitation to participate in a poll on the speech and language needs of children in view of the impacts of the pandemic.

### [Department for Education research show impact of Covid on Early Years \(England\)](#)

Three new reports from the Department for Education (DfE) have been published that outline how childcare settings across England have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, reports Nursery World. The reports highlighted several staff concerns, such as relaxed ratios (of children to staff) as well as a limited number of 'qualified professions' in the field. Furthermore, 71% of nurseries and pre-schools have lost staff since the start of the pandemic, with 54% noting that their costs have



increased, with just under 50% of childminders having to use their personal savings to keep their business afloat.

## Health

### [Consultation launched to increase mother and baby unit capacity](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation to increase the capacity of Mother and Baby Units (MBU) in Scotland. Currently there are only two regional MBU in Scotland – Livingston and Glasgow – and each unit can hold up to six women and their babies. A report commissioned by the Scottish Government in 2019, [Delivering Effective Services: Perinatal mental health services: needs assessment and recommendations](#), highlighted that each MBU would benefit from a further four beds. The consultation is open for responses now.

## Justice

### [SCRA refurbishes children's hearing rooms](#)

The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA) has announced a further six Hearing rooms have been refurbished and are ready for face-to-face Children's Hearings. The six new-look rooms are in Bellshill, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Kirkwall and Lochgilphead. The new rooms feature different seating options, a small coffee table and play areas for young children – to create a more welcoming and relaxed atmosphere to help children and young people participate more effectively in their Hearings. SCRA hopes to have the remaining Hearing rooms refurbished by March 2024.

### [Police force launches trauma-informed care for children in custody \(England\)](#)

The police force in Northamptonshire has overhauled how it deals with children in custody by focusing on helping them tackle trauma in their lives, reports Children and Young People Now. The trauma-informed custody programme aims to better support children who have been arrested by focusing on understanding the impact of trauma, neglect or abuse, to recognise children's vulnerability as well as reduce repeat offending.

## Looked After and Accommodated Children

### [Call for Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel report to be published \(England\)](#)

Article 39, the Social Workers Union, BASW England, and the BASW Children & Families Group are among a group of 30 signatories writing to the Chair of Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel (CSPRP) Annie Hudson. The letter asks the CSPRP to publish the report of 48 incidents where looked after children entered care following abuse or neglect and then died in care, or were seriously harmed.



## Mental Health

### [Mental Health Awareness Week: 9 – 15 May 2022](#)

The theme for this year's Mental Health Awareness week has been announced. The week, running from 9 – 15 May, will explore the experience of loneliness, its effect on mental health and how we can play a part in reducing it in our communities.

## Other Health and Social Care

### [Scottish Government called to double Child Payment](#)

The Trussell Trust and Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) in Scotland have called on the Scottish Government to double the current level of the Scottish Child Payment and increase the total value of the Scottish Welfare Fund in anticipation of a cost-of-living crisis next year. In a recent report, researchers from IPPR suggested the initial rollout of the Scottish Child Payment was muted by the withdrawal of the £20 uplift in universal Credit, with estimates suggesting the Scottish Government will fall short of its interim child poverty targets without further intervention. The two organisations have suggested more could be done to streamline application processes and support available via local government and Social Security Scotland.

### **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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