



Adult and Health



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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 will no longer be 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](#)

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.



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

The 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 requirement. 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.

[Privacy notice published on how Government will share data with Covid-19 inquiry](#)

The Scottish Government has published a privacy notice detailing how data protection principles are applied when processing personal data while providing information to the Scottish Coronavirus Public Inquiry. The inquiry will investigate strategic elements of handling of the Covid-19 response in Scotland and may ask the government for personal data that is relevant to the inquiry's investigation.

[Inquiry launched into communication of public health information during Covid-19](#)

The Covid-19 Recovery Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the communication of public health information during the Covid-19 pandemic. The inquiry aims to understand the challenges, including the existence of any misinformation and disinformation, faced by the Government in communicating public health messages in the pandemic to date and to consider what could be done by Government to tackle these issues going forward.

Alcohol and Drugs

[PHS publishes monitoring reports on the national naloxone programme](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published information on the number of take-home naloxone (THN) kits issued by the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. Naloxone is a drug which reverses the effects of a potentially fatal overdose from drugs such as heroin. The report notes that in 2020/21, 22,366 THN kits were issued in Scotland, an increase of 67% from 2019/20 (13,414). The report also notes that around the time of the first national lockdown, there was an increase in the number of THN kits issued in Scotland, with 8,040 kits issued between April 2020 and June 2020.

Workforce

[New toolkit launched to make workplaces better for people who are grieving](#)

Scottish Care have announced the launch of its new bereavement-friendly workplace toolkit, a new scheme to make workplaces better for those who are grieving. The toolkit provides advice on how employers can support people who are grieving. They have also launched a new bereavement charter mark which will recognise employers who support bereaved staff.



[Summary of discussion between front-line social workers and Scottish Government](#)

The Scottish Association of Social Workers (SASW) has published a summary of the third meeting of the Social Work Policy Panel. The panel is an opportunity for front-line social workers to share their views and experiences with policy makers in order to help improve specific areas of social work practice. The theme of this meeting was the implementation of self-directed support.

[RCN responds to new report recommending pay increase for workers](#)

Royal College of Nursing (RCN) has responded to the Migration Advisory Committee report on adult social care which recommends pay increases for some workers and adding care workers permanently to the shortage occupation list. RCN Chief Executive, Pat Cullen, said that “this reinforces what our members have been asking for, a pay rise to help address the workforce crisis in social care across the UK”. He also added that overseas recruitment alone will not solve the workforce crisis and that a properly funded plan to grow and develop the existing workforce is needed.

[Exhibit on the history of learning disability to launch 18 May](#)

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) will launch an exhibition on the history of learning disability nursing on 18 May 2022. The exhibition will include an opportunity to attend the exhibition in person at the Royal College of Nursing from 5-6pm on the launch date and to attend talks, both online and in person, from 6pm.

[Nursing and Midwifery Council announce new council member for Scotland](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has appointed Margaret McGuire as the new council member for Scotland. Margaret is a dual registered midwife and nurse. Most recently she held the role of Executive Nurse Director at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Other Health and Social Care

[Call for views on Scottish Carer's Assistance](#)

The ALLIANCE is seeking views from its members on the Scottish Government's proposals for Scottish Carer's Assistance, a new Scottish benefit. The new benefit will replace Carer's Allowance and will be delivered by Social Security Scotland. The ALLIANCE has invited its members to share feedback to shape its response to the Scottish Government. The closing date for feedback is Tuesday 17 May 2022.

[Healthcare Improvement Scotland consulting on draft strategy](#)

Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) is now consulting on its draft strategy for the period 2022-2027. The strategy describes the organisation's ambitions for the health and care system and how these can be achieved. It notes existing challenges such as people waiting too long for diagnosis, treatment, and care, and people experiencing fragmented and disjointed care.



[VHS launches its 2022-2025 strategy](#)

Voluntary Health Scotland (VHS) has launched its new three-year strategy for the period 2022-2025. The strategy, which was delayed by one year due to the pandemic, sets out four key aims, four core health themes and five priorities for development and delivery. A number of consultation workshops and interviews were held in 2021 and were facilitated by Dr Kevin Page.

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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