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Covid-19 - General

[Calls for reintroduction of masks in healthcare settings](#)

The Scottish Healthcare Workers Coalition (SHWC) has reportedly written to Scottish Ministers calling for a reintroduction of face masks in health and social care settings, the BBC reports. Face mask guidance has been withdrawn since May 2023, and the SHWC is calling for the “reintroduction of masks in all health and social care settings and a commitment to improving ventilation and air filtration as a matter of urgency.”

[Report on the epidemiology of Covid-19](#)

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has published a report commissioned from an independent expert on the scientific and medical understanding of coronavirus and COVID-19 as it existed in late 2019 and developed during the pandemic, up until the end of 2022.

[Updated guidance on keeping safe from respiratory infections](#)

The Scottish Government has updated guidance on how to keep safe from respiratory infections including Covid-19. The guidance has been updated to reflect the current stage of the pandemic and advises those that have symptoms of a respiratory infection to wear a well-fitting face mask when they go out.



Health

[Investing in preventative action](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published an evidence paper on why investment in prevention should be central to managing the demands on the health service now and in the future. Examples given as successful prevention include the rollout of the HPV vaccine to teenage girls to reduce the development of high-grade cervical cell abnormalities (a precursor of cervical cancer), and the Childsmile programme halving the rates of tooth decay in children since 2003.

Justice

[Barnahus update](#)

The Care Inspectorate has published an update on the Barnahus, or 'Bairns Hoose', work by ourselves and Healthcare Improvement Scotland. This work has included the development of Scottish Standards, including the lived experience of children in drafting, and the Standards were published in May 2023.

Looked After and Accommodated Children

[Updates sought on progress on kinship care](#)

The Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee has written to COSLA about progress being made on the committee's recommendations regarding local authority and COSLA action on kinship care. The Convenor is seeking information on progress local authorities have made with ensuring information about kinship care is easily available to the public, including if and how entitlements differ between different types of kinship arrangement, how discussions are proceeding on introducing a Scottish Recommended Allowance, and any action taken to ensure local government staff advising kinship carers on benefits or allowances are aware of the range of different kinship care arrangements and have access to clear, easy to follow guidance.

Play

[Funding awarded for outdoor play opportunities](#)

The Scottish Government has announced funding for the Outdoor Community Play Fund to benefit charities providing local outdoor play initiatives for children in their local communities.



Other Health and Social Care

[New report highlights the caring penalty experienced by unpaid carers](#)

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has published a report on the financial impact of unpaid care and how policies can help to tackle it. The report focuses on those who care for someone who is sick, disabled or elderly (unpaid social-care givers) and those who care for a child who is not sick or disabled (child-care givers). It notes that unpaid child-care givers experience an average pay penalty of £1,264 per month reaching £1,785 after six years of providing unpaid care, and unpaid social-care givers experience an average pay penalty of £487 per month reaching £744 per month after six years of providing unpaid care. It states that a mix of policies are needed to tackle the caring penalty including making formal care services more affordable.

[Nursing and Midwifery Council annual review](#)

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) has published a review of its work in the past year. The review outlines how the NMC has worked to deliver its strategic goals including changing its English language requirements to offer more flexibility to international applicants, modernising its education programme standards following the UK's exit from the EU, and publishing an anti-racism resource.

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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