



14 – 20 July 2023



bulletin

A row of four overlapping circles in shades of grey, teal, blue, and purple, with the letter 'A' inside the purple circle.

Adult and Health

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Covid-19 - General

[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.

[Medical professionals call for reintroduction of face masks](#)

The BBC has reported calls from healthcare workers to reintroduce face masks in all health and social care settings. The Scottish Healthcare Workers Coalition (SHWC) has written to ministers to raise concerns over the change in face mask guidance, which was withdrawn in May, and highlighted that healthcare workers are at a higher risk of contracting the virus.



[Report on the epidemiology of Covid-19 published by the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry](#)

The Scottish Covid-19 public inquiry has published a commissioned report on the epidemiology of Covid-19. The report, by Dr Ashley Croft, provides an overview of the characteristics of Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2 virus) and summarises the scientific knowledge around Covid-19 during the period from late 2019 to 2022. The report includes a timeline of Covid-19 events in Scotland and a summary outlining the current understating of the Covid-19 pandemic. Dr Croft is due to deliver a 'scene setting' presentation on the epidemiology of Covid-19 at the [inquiry's first public event](#) on Wednesday 26 July and Thursday 27 July 2023.

Alzheimer's/ Dementia

[Alzheimer Scotland responds to new drugs to treat Alzheimer's](#)

The dementia charity has responded to the announcement of two promising drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease stating that "indications are that this this new cohort of drugs do not simply tackle the symptoms, but the disease processes themselves. This is critically important, and while they are not a cure, they would appear to be a significant step forward in the treatment of early Alzheimer's disease".

Care Homes/Care at Home

[BBC reports on concerns over care home closures](#)

The BBC has published an article highlighting concerns over care home closures in Scotland. The article notes concern around challenges facing the industry such as funding and staffing difficulties. It also suggests that the 6% uplift to the national care homes rate isn't enough to cover increased energy and recruitment costs.

Mental Health

[Mental Welfare Commission publishes 12 new reports](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published 12 new reports on NHS hospital wards and other facilities for people with mental ill health, learning disability, dementia, or related conditions in Scotland. Claire Lamza, executive director (nursing) at the Mental Welfare Commission said, "patients and families very often praised staff across the ward teams" and stated that in a number of the reports the Commission has recommended increasing the involvement of patients, or their families, in their care and treatment.

[Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund evaluation report](#)

The Scottish Government has published two evaluation and monitoring reports on the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. The [external evaluation report](#) provides the findings from the evaluation of Year 1 of the Fund, and the [monitoring and reporting summary](#) provides a national-level analysis of local monitoring and reporting data for Year 2 funding. The evaluation report notes that in Year 1 of the



Fund, 1842 projects delivered a range of community supports focused on improving mental health and wellbeing to an estimated 300,000 people across Scotland.

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 (unpaid 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.

[Review of the National Islands Plan](#)

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation on a review of the National Islands Plan. The first National Islands Plan was published in 2019 and is now being reviewed as required by the provisions in the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018. The review looks to gain a detailed overview of the impact of the current plan and to inform a new plan if this is needed. The consultation will close on 9 October 2023.

[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.

[PHS report makes case for investment in prevention](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has published a paper on the case for investment in prevention and sustainability of health services. The paper includes a number of case studies demonstrating that primary prevention has an impact on reducing demands on health services.

**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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