



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
8th October 2020

Summary

This weekly digest contains a selection of evidence published in the last 7 days, in relation to the prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care home settings. We search a number of Covid-19 review repositories, an existing PHE Covid-19 evidence digest, Ovid Medline and Embase, Social Care Online, medRxiv (pre-print server) and various websites. We select peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed publications (pre-prints), as well as systematic reviews, guidance and evidence summaries.

The digest is produced by PHE **Knowledge and Library Services** (KLS), in conjunction with a small editorial team.

We do not accept responsibility for the availability, reliability or content of the items included in this resource and do not necessarily endorse the views expressed within them. Our intent is to highlight early emerging research findings as well as research that has been subject to peer review and wider scrutiny.

This week's digest includes: further evidence from Italy and Spain of the impact of COVID-19 on care home workers in terms of post-traumatic stress and anxiety; potential benefit of negative pressure isolation spaces in preventing transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in skilled nursing facilities in the USA ; also from the USA, a consensus on recommendations for welcoming back visitors to nursing homes; and a comparison of approaches to the prevention and control of COVID-19 in long term care homes between British Columbia and Ontario. From the UK and Sweden, a protocol to help to improve the early detection of COVID-19 in nursing homes. Finally, a summary of recent published guidance, statistics, editorials and news.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
30.09.2020	Prevalence of post-traumatic symptomatology and anxiety among residential nursing and care home workers following the first COVID-19 outbreak in Northern Italy	Royal Society Open Science / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explores prevalence of trauma in care home workers who operated throughout the major COVID-19 outbreak in Northern Italy • The study finds an estimated 43% prevalence of symptoms, and argues that interventions to support mental health of workers should be prioritised
01.10.2020	COVID-19 Pandemic: The Lived Experiences of Older Adults in Aged Care Homes	Millenial Asia / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative study into the impact of COVID-19 on older adults living in two Malaysian care homes between December 2019 and June 2020 • Tension and concerns of residents are identified, including impact of reduced or curtailed social contact with family beyond the facilities
02.10.2020	Implementing a Negative Pressure Isolation Space within a Skilled Nursing Facility to Control SARS-CoV-2 Transmission	American Journal of Infection Control / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on the impact of introducing a negative pressure space in a skilled nursing facility to minimise transmission risks between staff and residents • The space was maintained using a modified HVAC system: to date there has been no transmission of COVID-19 through the negative pressure space
05.10.2020	COVID-19 in long-term care homes in Ontario and British Columbia	CMAJ / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in care homes in Ontario have suffered higher death rates due to COVID-19 than counterparts in British Columbian care homes • Early responses from British Columbia and historic differences in the approach to residential care for the elderly are identified as key reasons for the contrast
07.10.2020	Stressors, Job Resources, Fear of Contagion, and Secondary Traumatic Stress Among Nursing Home Workers in Face of the COVID-19: The Case of Spain	Journal of Applied Gerontology / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study investigating impact of COVID-19 on Spanish nursing home workers • Staff in nursing homes where COVID-19 was detected showed higher levels of secondary traumatic stress, and lack of managerial support and adequate PPE were identified as exacerbating stress factors

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
01.10.2020	Exploring views and experiences of how infections are detected and managed in practice by nurses, care workers and manager's in nursing homes in England and Sweden: a survey protocol	Carey, N.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a protocol for proposed study into methods used to detect infections among nursing-home settings • Aims to form basis to review and revise the Early Detection of Infection Scale, particularly in context of COVID-19 pandemic
05.10.2020	In Conversation with a Frontline Worker in a Care Home in Sweden during the COVID-19 Pandemic	Kabir, Z.N.; Boström, A; Konradsen, H.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents the translated and edited results of a two-hour interview with a Swedish nurse working at a care home in Stockholm, which was recorded in May 2020
06.10.2020	Atypical clinical presentation of COVID-19 infection in residents of a long-term care facility	Blain, H.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examines rate of COVID-19 infection among patients and staff in a long-term care facility after one patient had a diagnosis confirmed • This initial case presented atypically, which may explain the extent of the asymptomatic infections subsequently identified
07.10.20	Recommendations for Welcoming Back Nursing Home Visitors during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Results of a Delphi Panel	Bergman, C.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delphi panel of 21 experts drawn from post-acute, LTC, administrative, and patient advocate roles in the USA and Canada aim to create consensus recommendations to resume visitors in residential care • Some areas of discussion resisted consensus, but a table of agreed guidance is provided

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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Updated 07.10.2020	COVID-19 - Information and guidance for care home settings	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides advice about COVID-19 for those working in residential care home settings. A control measure tool for the control of incidents and outbreaks in Social or Community Care & Residential Settings, specific for COVID-19, is also available here.
Updated 02.10.2020	COVID-19: Regional Principles for Visiting in Care Settings in Northern Ireland	Northern Ireland Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting arrangements have been further limited as a result of the Northern Ireland Executive's decision to invoke limited additional restrictions across the entire region with effect from 22 September 2020.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
06.10.2020	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	Office for National Statistics & Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority up to week ending 2 October.
07.10.2020	Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland up to 4 October, including: Testing for COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland split by care homes with confirmed Covid-19 and without confirmed Covid-19, presented by NHS Health Board; Deaths reported to Care Inspectorate - the number of deaths reported by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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03.10.20	COVID-19 has hit nursing homes hard	Pitkälä, Kaisu H.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifies that nursing homes in many countries have suffered severely from COVID-19 both in terms of resident health and deaths, and in relation to the strain and requirements placed on staff.
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