



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
15th 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: evidence from the USA on the pros and cons of temperature screening for SARS-CoV-2 in nursing homes; from Spain, the value of pooled testing of residents in care institutions in low prevalence areas; observations from Japan on the different experience of COVID-19 in care facilities compared with European and American experiences; also lessons from Hong Kong from the 2003 SARS outbreak for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in care homes. From the UK, a rapid review of the experiences gained across the social care sector during the first phase of the COVID-19 pandemic with lessons and recommendations for relevant authorities and stakeholders. Finally, a summary of recent published reports, guidance and statistics.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
08.10.2020	Impact of COVID-19 Policy Responses on Live-In Care Workers in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland	Journal of Long Term Care / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines impact of pandemic restrictions on migration of live-in careworkers between their patient’s homes and their country of origin Contrasts policy and restrictions imposed across Austria, Germany, and Switzerland Also identifies the risk of pandemic impact on live-in carer’s job security and emotional, physical, and financial wellbeing being overlooked in the countries studied
09.10.2020	Partnering with Local Hospitals and Public Health to Manage COVID-19 Outbreaks in Nursing Homes	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies COVID-19 outbreaks at three nursing home facilities in Michigan, USA Maps out the identification of each outbreak, the homes’ efforts to contain it, and outcomes Argues that close collaboration with local hospitals, laboratories, and public health officials can have a major impact on effectiveness of response
09.10.2020	Temperature Screening for SARS-CoV-2 in Nursing Homes: Evidence from Two National Cohorts	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrospective cohort study of USA Veterans care facilities and a national chain of care homes Evaluates temperature trends among nursing home residents undergoing diagnostic testing for COVID-19 and describes accuracy of temperature measurements for predicting infection prior to diagnostic test results Concludes temperature threshold 38.0°C for fever in nursing home screening tools should be lowered to improve predictive accuracy for COVID-19 infection in frail adults
13.10.2020	Pooling for SARS-CoV-2 control in care institutions	BMC Infectious Diseases / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines rates of COVID-19 infection among care home residents in Galicia, Spain and evaluates effectiveness of pooling tests Concludes that pooled testing in populations which have achieved zero cases is an important mechanism for early detection and future transmission prevention while preserving testing resources

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
08.10.2020	Outbreaks of COVID-19 infection in aged care facilities in Japan	Maeda, K.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This letter reports on the impact of COVID-19 in care facilities in Japan, arguing that their experience of the pandemic has been noticeably different from the European and American experience It notes a much lower infection rate in aged care facilities, and discusses some possible reasons for the difference
08.10.2020	Psychological Consequences of the COVID-19 on Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes	Shenjiang Mo, Junqi Shi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers overview of existing studies of psychological impact of COVID-19 on care home staff and patients, and summarises existing strategies and initiatives to limit this impact Workload, loneliness, and emotional anxiety are key stressors, among both residents and staff
09.10.2020	Care Homes and COVID-19 in Hong Kong: how the lessons from SARS were used to good effect	Chow, L.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This report examines how care homes in Hong Kong responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how lessons learned from the SARS outbreak of 2003 helped guide response measures in 2020. Argues that strict discharge protocols and the use of masks to limit asymptomatic spread are vital to curbing transmission of infections
11.10.2020	Hospice Response to COVID-19: Promoting Sustainable Inclusion Strategies for Racial and Ethnic Minorities	Hughes, M.C.; Vernon, E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This letter notes the high mortality rate of COVID-19 among ethnic minority groups, and argues that greater efforts to inclusion by social and care workers can help reduce this. It dicusses a number of inclusion strategies which could increase inclusivity in US hospice care, and thereby improve patient care among minority and disadvantaged groups
13.10.2020	A Telling Experience: Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on people who access care and support – a rapid	Think Local, Act Personal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report draws on personal stories and experiences to examine what worked well, and what could have been improved, in relation to social care during the first phases of the COVID-19 pandemic in the UK

	evidence review with recommendations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple groups of stakeholders and individuals are represented, including care home residents and staff, people of BAME backgrounds, vulnerable and shielding groups, and those limited in their ability to access technology The report makes a number of recommendations and learning points, and identifies the authorities and stakeholders who should be responsible for their implementation
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Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 07.10.2020	Infection prevention and control in care homes	Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of questions and prompts used by CQC to check how staff and residents of care homes are protected by infection prevention and control, including checks for COVID-19 mitigation
Updated 12.10.2020	Supported living services during coronavirus (COVID-19)	DHSC and PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out key messages to assist with planning and preparation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic so that local procedures can be put in place to minimise risk and provide the best possible support to people in supported living settings Also gives safe systems of working including, social distancing, respiratory and hand hygiene and enhanced cleaning Sets out how infection prevention and control (IPC) and personal protective equipment (PPE) applies to supported living settings

Statistics

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Updated 12.10.2020	COVID-19: Care homes in England – Update	Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlights recent changes in the number of outbreaks in care homes
13.10.2020	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 9 October.
13.10.2020	Notifications of deaths of residents related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March to 9 October 2020	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data presented here are based on the Notifications of Service User Deaths received by Care Inspectorate Wales from adult care homes which relate to their residents. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.
14.10.2020	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 11 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
09.10.2020	CQC outlines plans to monitor infection prevention and control (IPC) over winter	Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CQC sets out monitoring plans for all care settings ahead of winter 2020. An essential element is that patients' Covid status is shared prior to hospital discharge so all can make informed decisions about where patients' care needs should be met

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim is also to enable providers to protect against the spread of Covid in care homes.
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