



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
7th January 2021

Summary

This weekly digest contains a selection of evidence published in the last 2 weeks, 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: from the USA, challenges in maintaining social distancing in health care facilities and potential solutions from a human factors and an engineering systems perspective; and evidence of willingness of long term care staff to take up COVID-19 vaccination; from Canada, the value of an infection prevention and control SWAT team in long term and residential care; and a scoping review of the risk factors for social isolation of older people in long term care; from the UK, a case study of a rapid response and treatment service for care homes. Finally, summaries of recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
22.12.2020	Factors Influencing Nurse Assistants' Job Satisfaction in Nursing Homes in Canada and Spain: A Comparison of Two Cross-Sectional Observational Studies	Journal of Applied Gerontology / Research Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For this cross-sectional study, data collected from 591 nursing assistants in 42 nursing homes in Canada and Spain were analyzed with mixed-effects regression. • Stress was associated with lower job satisfaction and moderated the association of supervisory support and job satisfaction, reinforcing the importance of supervisors supporting nursing assistants, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.
22.12.2020	Meaningful Engagement in the Nursing Home	Journal of Gerontological Social Work / Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This brief review focuses on the role of meaningful engagement and person-centered care as the next step in enhancing nursing home care. • The importance of activities that strengthen cognitive and/or physical function is stressed, as well as improving socialization to reduce loneliness.
24.12.2020	Physical distancing for care delivery in health care settings: Considerations and consequences	American Journal of Infection Control / Brief Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As health care systems explore new ways of delivering care for patients with and without COVID-19, they must consider how to maintain physical distancing among health care workers and patients. • Physical distancing in high complexity systems such as health care is particularly challenging and may benefit from a human factors and systems engineering perspective. • This article discusses the challenges to implementing and maintaining physical distancing in health care settings and present possible solutions from a human factors and systems engineering perspective.
26.12.2020	Psychiatric Symptoms during the COVID-19 outbreak in Older Adults with Bipolar Disorder	Geriatric Psychiatry / Research Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study included 81 OABD patients aged over 50 years. • Factors measured at baseline in patients that participated in 2017/18 were compared with factors measured during the COVID-19 outbreak. • Participants experienced less psychiatric symptoms during COVID-19 measures when compared to baseline. • The results indicate promising targets for psychological interventions aimed at curing and preventing recurrence in OABD and improving quality of life in this growing vulnerable group.

<p>28.12.2020</p>	<p>A rapid response and treatment service for care homes: a case study</p>	<p>British Journal of Community Nursing / Case Study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This article describes a Rapid Response and Treatment service for older people living in care homes in Berkshire West and shares Sid's story to demonstrate how such a service is delivered. • The COVID-19 pandemic has presented additional challenges and opportunities that highlight the ongoing need for the development of services that will support older people to prioritise what matters to them most.
<p>28.12.2020</p>	<p>COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Adherence in Long-term Care Facilities, Atlanta, Georgia</p>	<p>Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Brief Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits to 24 long-term care facilities (LTCFs) in Fulton County, Georgia, were conducted between June and July 2020 to assess adherence to current guidelines, provide real-time feedback on potential weaknesses, and identify specific indicators whose implementation or lack thereof was associated with higher or lower prevalence of COVID-19. • Twenty-four LTCFs were visited, representing 2,580 LTCF residents, among whom 1,004 (39%) were infected with COVID-19. • LTCFs with lower COVID-19 prevalence among residents had significantly greater implementation of IPC recommendations compared to those with higher COVID-19 prevalence, suggesting the utility in adhering to current guidelines to reduce transmission in this vulnerable population.
<p>28.12.2020</p>	<p>Willingness of long-term care staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine: A single state survey</p>	<p>Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Brief Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To plan for coronavirus infectious disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine distribution, the Indiana Department of Health surveyed nursing home and assisted living facility staff. • Cross-sectional analysis was conducted of an anonymous survey sent via text message link to personal cell phones and emails of Nursing home and assisted living facility staff in Indiana. • The willingness to receive the COVID-19 vaccine immediately or in the future may be as high as 69%, but varies among subgroups of nursing home staff which has implications for distribution. • Educating staff on the vaccine may be critical for increasing uptake.
<p>29.12.2020</p>	<p>How typical is the spectrum of COVID-19 in nursing home residents?</p>	<p>Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Research Letters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this study was to gain insight into the broad spectrum of signs/symptoms, disease course and outcome in nursing home residents with COVID-19. • A detailed overview is provided of symptoms in nursing home residents with COVID-19.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinical spectrum is broad and atypical, with 28.4% of the residents not fulfilling the initial WHO case definition and a high mortality of 36.4%.
29.12.2020	In the eye of the storm...again! Social policy responses to COVID19 in Southern Europe	Social Policy and Administration / Original Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This paper aims to describe and discuss the significance of the social policy measures implemented in Southern European countries—Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain—in response to the first wave of COVID-19. The paper shows that despite differences in how countries have countered the spread of COVID-19, there are important commonalities in the actions governments took to counteract the economic impact of the pandemic.
29.12.2020	The situation of elderly with cognitive impairment living at home during lockdown in the Corona-pandemic in Germany	BMC Geriatrics / Research Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this study was to analyse: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) knowledge about, and feelings related to the Corona-pandemic. b) loneliness, depression and anxiety and, c) the perceived, immediate impact of the lockdown on frequency of social contacts, and quality of health care provision of people with cognitive impairment during social distancing and lockdown in the primary care system and living at home in Germany. The study shows a small impact of the pandemic on psychological variables like depression, anxiety and loneliness in the short-term in Germany.
30.12.2020	Resistance, Innovation, and Improvisation: Comparing the Responses of Nursing Home Workers to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Canada and the United States	Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice / Research Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparing the situation of workers in nursing homes in two Canadian provinces and two states in the USA, this study draws on narrative accounts from frontline workers and finds that despite variation in the severity of the outbreaks they experienced, nursing home workers in each jurisdiction demonstrated three types of responses to pandemic policy changes that are theorized as resistance, innovation, and improvisation. Data for the study was compiled using a novel method of interrogating newspaper articles to identify narrative accounts and interviews with nursing home workers.

<p>03.01.2021</p>	<p>Implementation and Evaluation of an IPAC SWAT Team Mobilized to Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Pragmatic Health System Innovation</p>	<p>Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term care facilities (LTCFs), retirement homes (RHs), and other congregate care settings in Canada and worldwide have experienced significant COVID-19 outbreaks. • As a health system response, an acute care hospital in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, developed and mobilized an onsite Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) SWAT team (IPAC-SWAT) to regional settings on outbreak and implemented a strategy of support through education, training, and engagement. • Between April 28, 2020, and June 30, 2020, IPAC-SWAT assessed 7 LTCFs and 10 RHs for IPAC preparedness and actively managed 10 of 13 COVID-19 outbreaks (LTCF n=5; RH n=5).
<p>03.01.2021</p>	<p>Older Adults' Risk Perception during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Lombardy Region of Italy: A Cross-sectional Survey</p>	<p>Journal of Gerontological Social Work / Research Article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study investigated risk perception in 514 people over 60 years during the lockdown. • Risk perception related to COVID-19 was significantly lower than the perceived risk associated with other threats, and it was correlated to the number of sources of information used but not to the actions undertaken. • The study found higher risk perception in participants who knew infected persons, and a negative correlation between the risk perception and age, with the over 75 perceiving a lower risk of getting infected compared to the younger participants.
<p>05.01.2021</p>	<p>Characteristics of COVID-19 Infection among -Nursing Home Residents – A Cross Sectional Study from Croatia</p>	<p>Collegium Antropologicum / Original Article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study investigated clinical and laboratory specificities in Croatian population of nursing home residents affected by coronavirus. • One hundred and six residents of nursing homes that were hospitalized due to COVID-19 infection, were included in this retrospective study. • Clinical and laboratory findings at three time points were extracted from medical records. • Patients were divided into three groups: Survivors (S), patients who are still alive (N=65), In-Hospital Non-Survivors (IHNS), patients who died from coronavirus during hospitalization (N=31) and Out-of-Hospital Non-Survivors (OHNS), patients who recovered from infection but died during the period of three months of the follow-up (N=10). • At the admission, survivors had lower values of lactate dehydrogenase, aspartate transaminase, sedimentation ratio, ferritin and C-reactive protein, OHNS were in the middle, and IHNS had the highest values.

			<p>Leukocytes and absolute lymphocyte count were greater in OHNS group, and same between survivors and IHNS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing of complete blood count, differential blood count, reactants of acute infection and combination of their ratios might predict worse outcome in nursing home residents due to coronavirus infection.
--	--	--	--

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
29.12.2020	Risk Factors for Social Isolation Among Older Adults in Long Term Care: A Scoping Review	Preprints / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A scoping review was conducted to identify possible risk factors for social isolation among older adults living in LTC homes. The review identified several risk factors for social isolation that have been previously documented in literature, in addition to several risks that may be unique to those living in LTC homes.
30.12.2020	Age is not the only risk factor in COVID-19: the role of comorbidities and of long staying in residential care homes	Research Square / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The actual SARS-CoV-2 outbreak caused a highly transmissible disease with a tremendous impact on elderly people. So far, few studies focused on very elderly patients (over 80 years old). This study examined the clinical presentation and the outcome of the disease in this group of patients, admitted to a Hospital in Rome. The study found that very elderly patients had an increased mortality rate, also due to the frequent occurrence of multiple comorbidities. The study also found that patients coming from LSRCHs appeared to be highly susceptible and vulnerable to develop severe manifestations of the disease.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
24.12.2020 (updated)	Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes	Department of Health and Social Care, Care Quality Commission, Public Health England and NHS England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak.
24.12.2020 (updated)	Coronavirus (COVID-19): looking after people who lack mental capacity	Department of Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity.
24.12.2020 (updated)	Coronavirus (COVID-19): support for care homes	Department of Health and Social Care and Helen Whately MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out the support package to keep care homes safe during the coronavirus pandemic.
31.12.2020 (updated)	COVID-19 - Information and guidance for care home settings	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The guidance for care homes provides advice about COVID-19 for those working in care home settings for adults and older people.
31.12.2020 (updated)	COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff	Public Health England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information for frontline social care workers on COVID-19 vaccination.
31.12.2020 (updated)	COVID-19: guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable	Public Health England and Department of Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information for shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable from COVID-19.
04.01.2021 (updated)	Personal protective equipment (PPE): local contacts for providers	Department of Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of local contacts for providers who are not on the PPE portal. Providers can get PPE through their local authority or local resilience forum.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
30.12.2020	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.
30.12.2020	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
31.12.2020	Comment on: COVID-19 in Nursing Homes: Calming the Perfect Storm	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This letter highlights and discusses the important key roles a nursing home medical director can have during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
31.12.2020	Dying at home of Covid-19: Meeting the need for home-based care	Preventive Medicine / Editorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite the increased burden of Covid-19 on older adults, ethical and public health frameworks lack adequate guidance for elderly patients who manage severe, even fatal, illness at home. This editorial proposes three approaches to prevent needless suffering and ensure that this vulnerable population continues to receive needed care.
31.12.2020	Reply to: Comment on COVID-19 in Nursing Homes: Calming the Perfect Storm	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to Dr. Zorowitz and colleagues letter, the authors' reply and demonstrate that they are strong advocates of continuing to build

			upon and strengthen the role of the medical director in leading efforts to improve care.
--	--	--	--