



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings

7th May 2021

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.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
29.04.2021	Impact of COVID-19 on Care-Home Mortality and Life Expectancy in Scotland	Age & Aging / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 deaths are commoner among care-home residents, but the mortality burden has not been quantified; in this study care-home residency was identified via a national primary care registration database linked to mortality data. Life expectancy was estimated using Makeham-Gompertz models Authors conclude that COVID-19 infection has led to the loss of substantial years of life in care-home residents aged 70 years and over in Scotland. Prioritising the 5% of older adults who are care-home residents for vaccination is justified not only in terms of total deaths, but also in terms of years of life lost.
30.04.2021	Effects of Social Isolation on a Long-Term Care Resident With Dementia and Depression During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Geriatric Nursing / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term care facilities have been encouraged to restrict visitors during COVID-19. Isolation from family worsens cognition and depression of residents with dementia. Isolation, needed to protect public health, undermines autonomy of older adults. Virtual interventions are helpful in supporting mental health. Long-term care residents with dementia need additional types of interventions.
30.04.2021	Addressing the needs of older adults receiving alcohol treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic: a qualitative study	Ageing & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study sought to understand the impact of the pandemic on older adults in alcohol treatment, and to explore how changes in the provision of alcohol treatment were experienced When national lockdown was introduced this also brought the potential for adverse effects such as boredom, isolation, loneliness, anxiety and stress. These factors are known triggers for increased drinking among older adults. Older adults in particular may be at greater risk of adverse effects from lockdown measures, as they are already more vulnerable to experiencing isolation

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adults in alcohol treatment may be at risk of being further marginalised if they do not receive the support they need; this study suggests that face-to-face contact is an essential part of supporting older adults in alcohol treatment. Tackling alcohol related harm during COVID-19 is a public health priority and needs to be an integral part of the UK's COVID-19 recovery plan. • Older adults in particular may require special consideration, with a flexible approach to treatment that prioritises face-to-face support.
01.05.2021	COVID-19-related deaths in residential care homes for elderly: The situation in Italy	Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 related deaths in residential care homes for elderly. • Increase in mortality COVID-19 related among the elderly. • Structural and organizational deficiencies and inadequate risk prevention measures. • COVID-19 in residential care homes are often underestimated. • Postmortem diagnosis of COVID-19.
04.05.2021	The Demography and Characteristic of SARS-CoV-2 Sero-positive Residents and Staff of Nursing Homes for Older Adults in the Community of Madrid: the SeroSOS Study	Age & Aging / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing homes for older adults have concentrated large numbers of severe cases and deaths for COVID-19. • Point seroprevalence study of nursing homes to describe the demography and characteristic of SARS-CoV-2 IgG-positive residents and staff.
04.05.2021	COVID-19: first long-term care facility outbreak in the Netherlands following cross-border introduction from Germany, March 2020	BMC Infectious Diseases / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dutch province of Limburg borders the German district of Heinsberg, which had a large cluster of COVID-19 cases linked to local carnival activities before any cases were reported in the Netherlands. • However, Heinsberg was not included as an area reporting local or community transmission per the national case definition at the time. In early March, two residents from a long-term care facility (LTCF) in Sittard, a Dutch town located in close vicinity to the district of Heinsberg, tested positive for COVID-19. • In this study we aimed to determine whether cross-border introduction of the virus took place by analysing the LTCF outbreak in Sittard, both epidemiologically and microbiologically.

04.05.2021	To Improve Nursing Home Care in the Wake of COVID-19, AGS Calls for U.S. Government to Focus on Three Critical Areas	Geriatric Nursing / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance's hearing on "A National Tragedy: COVID-19 in the Nation's Nursing Homes," the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) submitted a written statement for the record, calling on committee members to focus on three critical areas where attention can help achieve the AGS' vision for a United States where we can all contribute to our communities and maintain our health, safety, and independence as we age; and where older people have access to high-quality, person-centered care informed by geriatrics principles.
06.05.2021	The BNT162b2 Vaccine is Associated with Lower New COVID-19 Cases in Nursing Home Residents and Staff	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine on preventing spread of COVID-19 and deaths in nursing homes (NH) is unknown.

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
24.03.2021	COVID-19 Infection Risk amongst 14,104 Vaccinated Care Home Residents: A national observational longitudinal cohort study in Wales, United Kingdom, December 2020 to March 2021	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinations for COVID-19 have been prioritised for older people living in care homes. However, vaccination trials included limited numbers of older people.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
06.05.2021	Discharge Processes in a Skilled Nursing Facility affected by COVID-19	Weerahandi, Himali; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost half of post-acute patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis at a skilled nursing facility who had discharge planning initiated are affected by COVID-19 related barriers.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 01.05.2021	Arrangements for visiting out of the care home	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out how care homes can support residents on visits outside of the care home.
Updated 04.05.2021	Visiting arrangements in care homes	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents.
04.05.2021	COVID-19 Updated guidance for visiting in Residential Care Facilities & IPC updates from AMRIC team	Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation from NI's HPSC sets out both a general overview of COVID-19 situation and updates to the easing of visiting restrictions in Residential Care Facilities, as well as the implications of vaccinations on visiting RCFs

Evidence Summaries

Publication Date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
05.05.2021	COVID-19 outbreaks during or shortly after vaccination of care	Smith, Sian; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This summary covers three studies of care homes that experienced outbreaks following Pfizer/ BioNTech vaccination demonstrate the vulnerability of care home populations in the period until vaccines

	home residents: summary of three studies from the US and Germany		develop their full protective effect and make the case for prioritising the completion of both doses.
05.05.2021	Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and work life outcomes among frontline nursing home staff: a systematic review protocol	Thorne, Trina; Estabrook, Carole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this systematic review we will identify, evaluate and synthesize the available evidence on the association of the COVID-19 pandemic with frontline nursing staffs' health and work life outcomes. Research question: Question 1) What is the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic on frontline nursing home staffs' physical and mental health (e.g., insomnia, distress, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress) and work life outcomes (e.g., burnout, job satisfaction)?

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
05.05.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly updated provisional counts of deaths caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority
05.05.2021	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.
05.05.2021	Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of the number of care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, by region, including deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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02.04.2021	Managing bereavement when a family member dies in an aged care home: the impact of COVID-19	O'Connor, Margaret; Wilson, Bronwyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)-related deaths in aged care have left many families bereft. • This is a consequence of forced separation in the final stage of life, the family member being transferred to an acute hospital, the question of whether the patient died alone, and limitations on traditional rituals and practices surrounding funerals.
30.04.2021	The presence of care homes and excess deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from Italy	Alacevich, Caterina; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This paper explores the relationship between the spatial distribution of excess deaths and the presence of care home facilities during the first wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy. • Using registry-based mortality data for Lombardy, one of the areas most severely hit by the pandemic we show that the presence of a care home in a municipality is associated with significantly higher excess death rates in the population. • This effect appears to be driven by excess mortality in the elderly population of 70 years old and older. Our results are robust to controlling for the number of residents in each care home, suggesting that the presence of such facilities may have acted as one of factors contributing to the diffusion of COVID-19 at the local level.
03.05.2021	The risk of suicide in healthcare workers in nursing home: An exploratory analysis during COVID-19 epidemic	Veronese, Nicola; et al	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) outbreak as global pandemic. • Nursing homes were particularly struck by the COVID-19 outbreak, with some authors considering the COVID-19 pandemic as the “ground zero” for these structures.
04.05.2021	Administration of Bamlanivimab to Skilled Nursing Facility Residents during a COVID-19 Outbreak, January-February 2021, Arizona	Dale, Ariella P.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite high COVID-19 mortality risk among residents of LTCFs, reports on monoclonal antibody use in SNFs to treat COVID-19 are limited. • This letter describes the use of bamlanivimab during a large SARS-CoV-2 outbreak at a large SNF.