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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

3rd September 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
30.08.2021	Trends in COVID-19 cases, deaths, and staffing shortages in US nursing homes by rural and urban status	Study / Geriatric Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generalized linear mixed models with state-fixed effects were used to estimate the interaction effect of study period and rural/urban status on having at least: one COVID-19 case, one related death, and/or at least one week of staffing shortage using the NH COVID-19 data spanning the 40-week period. • The study highlighted that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural areas experienced an increasing proportion of NHs with staffing shortages until mid-November 2020, and then a gradual decrease afterwards, corresponding with trends in COVID-19 cases. ○ Staffing shortages in urban nursing homes were relatively stable despite the fluctuating COVID-19 cases over the same time period.
27.08.2021	Perceptions of COVID-19 Vaccines Among Healthcare Assistants: A National Survey	Study / Journal of the American Geriatrics Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of this study was to evaluate perceptions of COVID-19 vaccine safety and efficacy in a sample of frontline HCAs, overall and by race and ethnicity by method of an online survey conducted December 2020 to January 2021 through national e-mail listserv and private Facebook page for the National Association of Health Care Assistants. • Respondents expressed low levels of confidence in COVID-19 vaccines, with fewer than 40% expressing at least moderate confidence in safety (38.1%), effectiveness (31.0%), or adequate testing in people of color (27.1%). Non-white respondents reported lower levels of confidence in adequate testing of vaccines compared to white respondents.
26.08.2021	Role of Nursing Home Quality on COVID-19 Cases and Deaths:	Study / Journal Gerontological Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using publicly available data obtained from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services COVID-19 Nursing Home Dataset, Nursing Home Compare and Long-Term Care Focus, this study compares key nursing home characteristics, infection prevention and control deficiencies, and

	Evidence from Florida Nursing Homes		<p>five-star ratings among Florida nursing homes with and without resident COVID-19 cases and deaths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors state: The likelihood of having COVID-19 cases is more related to ownership status, facility size and average occupancy rate, rather than quality indicators. Associations between infection prevention and control deficiencies, overall quality ratings, and presence of COVID-19 resident deaths varied across different phases of the pandemic (e.g., overall five-star rating was found related to the odds of having resident deaths after, but not during, the surging stage).
26.08.2021	Risk Factors Affecting Mental Health During The Early Stages Of The Covid-19 Pandemic In High-Risk 50+ Population In The Czech Republic	Study / Journal Gerontological Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results are based on the longitudinal representative 50+ population-based multi-country panel study Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in which representative samples of individuals in European countries plus Israel were collected. • Authors found that nervousness, previously unexperienced trouble with sleep, and self-rated health status before the COVID-19 outbreak and gender remained significant predictors of depression, from which statistically significant different categories concerning the percentage of depression could be formed.
27.08.2021	Adverse Events Following One Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccination among U.S. Nursing Home Residents with and without a Previous SARS-CoV-2 Infection	Study / Journal of the American Medical Directors Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The participants in his prospective cohort study were 20,918 nursing home residents who received the first dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine from December 18, 2020 through February 14, 2021 in 284 facilities within Genesis Healthcare, a large nursing home (NH) provider spanning 24 U.S. states. • Authors screened the electronic health record for adverse events, classified by the Brighton Collaboration, occurring within 15 days of residents' first COVID-19 vaccine dose. • Statistically significant differences existed between those without (n=13,163) and with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection (symptomatic (n=5,617) and asymptomatic (n=2,138)) for all baseline characteristics assessed. • Authors conclude: Although reactogenicity increases with pre-existing immunity, we did not find that vaccination among those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection resulted in higher rates of adverse events than those without previous infection

26.08.2021	Rapid changes in the provision of rehabilitation care in post-acute and long-term care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic	Study / Journal of the American Medical Directors Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 clinical and administrative staff working in post-acute and long-term care participated in this qualitative analysis of open-ended survey. Thematic analysis of the data identified four themes, related to (1) rapid changes in care delivery, (2) negative impact on patients' motivation and physical function, (3) new access barriers and increased costs, and (4) uncertainty about sustaining changes in delivery and payment.
26.08.2021	SARS-CoV-2 and Wisconsin Nursing Homes: Temporal dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic	Study / Journal of the American Medical Directors Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Retrospective cohort study describes incidence rates of COVID-19 across Wisconsin nursing homes while examining factors associated with their trajectory during five months of the pandemic. • Nursing home characteristics were compared using Pearson Chi-square and Kruskal-Wallis tests. Multiple linear regressions were used to evaluate the effect of rurality on COVID-19. • Authors conclude: Higher COVID-19 incidence rates were first observed in large, urban nursing homes with low quality rating. By October 2020, the disease had spread to rural and smaller nursing homes and those with higher quality ratings, suggesting that community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 may have propelled its spread
27.08.2021	COVID-19-related worries, social disruptions, and depressive symptoms among community-dwelling older adults with disabilities: What makes the difference?	Study / The Journals of Gerontology: Series B.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differences in the level of COVID-19-related worries between home-based service (HBS) users and non-users were greatest in April, followed by May, and least in June and July, suggesting that the disparities between HBS users and non-users attenuated over time. • Perceived high COVID-19-related social disruptions was weakly and negatively correlated with depressive symptoms in April, but the relationship became moderately positive in May, and strongly positive in June and July. • These results supported the claim that the associations between COVID-19-related social disruptions and depressive symptoms can vary over time.

Preprints

Publication Date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
27.08.2021	Psychosocial burden and associated factors among nurses in care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic: findings from a retrospective survey in Germany	Research Square / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 811 nurses participated in a retrospective online survey between November 2020 and February 2021. Information about the COVID-19 situation (i.e., working demands, COVID-19 cases in their facility, and COVID-19-related burden) of nurses in German care homes during the first wave of the pandemic (March 2020 to June 2020) was gathered. Among nurses, 94.1% stated that work demands since the COVID-19 pandemic increased. Further, 57.5% showed clinically relevant levels of either stress, anxiety, and/or depression. Stress was also associated with COVID-19 cases among residents ($p < .05$), and size of care home ($p < .05$).

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
27.08.2021 Updated	Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in adult care homes	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to access test kits and step-by-step guides on how to use PCR and rapid lateral flow test kits for regular and outbreak testing of residents, staff and visiting professionals.
26.08.2021 Updated	COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England	PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A resource for those working in domiciliary care providing information on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
24.08.2021	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 coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.
24.08.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority. Published by the Office for National Statistics and Care Quality Commission.
31.08.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 25 August 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report provides provisional counts of the number of adult care homes reporting one or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 and provisional counts of deaths in care homes. This is based on notifications by care home providers to Care Inspectorate Wales. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.
01.09.2021	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.