



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

25th June 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.

This week's digest includes: from Europe, factors influencing variation in stress and anxiety among care home workers during the COVID-19 pandemic; from the USA, evidence of an association between changes in daily habits and anxiety and depression in older people during the COVID-19 pandemic; from Japan, unexpected benefits of socially assistive robots in nursing homes in improving organisational resilience; from Ireland, a scoping review of challenges and responses in nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic; and from the International Long-term care Policy Network, notices about forthcoming webinars on the impact of COVID-19 vaccination in care homes and on the learning from across the English Applied Research Collaborations during the COVID-19 pandemic from research on visiting in care homes. From the UK, community factors contributing to excess mortality during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic; and evidence of how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed working practices in care homes. Finally, summaries of other recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

We now have a search facility for the Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest. This can be achieved by using Endnote Software and accessing the monthly backups of the Research Digest. This will give access to the content of all previous weekly Digests and allow simple searches e.g. on authors, abstracts

(where these are captured) and titles. Please note that this is not a substitute for a proper literature search. If you would like to access this facility please contact gareth.durling@phe.gov.uk.

An ongoing series of PHE rapid reviews on a range of Covid-19 related research questions can be also found at <https://phelibrary.kohapfts.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
16.06.2021	Clinical characteristics of 1544 Brazilians aged 60 years and over with laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2	Arch. Geront. and Geriat. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigated, over 28 epidemiological weeks in the year 2020, risk factors for death in 1,544 Brazilians over 60 with laboratory evidence for SARS-CoV-2. • 48% of patients admitted to ICU and undergoing RT-PCR testing, and had a positive result for COVID-19, died. • Symptoms and comorbidities related to increased chance of death (OR) were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ immunodeficiency (188%), ○ kidney disease (166%), ○ neurological disease (103%), ○ dyspnea (86%), pneumopathy (55%), ○ O2 saturation <95% (53%), ○ respiratory discomfort (49%), age (36%), ○ sore throat (31%), ○ and sex (0.5%). • Heart disease and Diabetes mellitus were the most frequent comorbidities, but did not indicate an increased risk of death from SARS-CoV-2 infection.
17.06.2021	Community resilience and psychological distress in Chinese older adults amid COVID-19: the roles of perceived community prevention effectiveness and risk perception	Aging & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyses data through a questionnaire survey of 272 older adults in 12 communities in the Sichuan province of China in April 2020 • Results found community resilience was negatively associated with older adults' psychological distress (depression, anxiety, stress), and this association was mediated by perceived community prevention effectiveness. • The findings underline a community's role in alleviating older adults' psychological distress amid COVID-19, and indicate tailored interventions for facilitating community pandemic prevention should be designed for older adults with different risk perceptions.

17.06.2021	Leveraging National Nursing Home Huddles for Rapid COVID-19 Response	Geriatrics / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disproportionates number of older adult residents of U.S. nursing homes have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. The novelty of the virus spurred frequently changing guidance as nursing facilities navigated response efforts. • In May 2020, the 6-month COVID-19 Rapid Response Network for Nursing Homes launched to leverage the concept of huddles across U.S. nursing homes to reduce COVID-19-related morbidity, mortality, and transmission by identifying best practices, foster connections between nursing homes, and refocus the narrative on optimism for response efforts. • Daily 20-min huddles transitioned to twice weekly in the program’s final two months. 93 huddles featured 103 speakers with 1,960 participants engaging in both live huddles and asynchronous learning. 90.33% of participants said they learned at least two new ideas, and 89.17% agreed participating improved their ability to lead change in their organization. • Leveraging nursing home huddles at the national, regional, local, system, or facility level may serve as a guidepost for future pandemics or work where guidance is new or quickly evolving
18.06.2021	Community factors and excess mortality in first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in England	Nature Communications / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors applied a two-stage Bayesian spatial model to quantify inequalities in excess mortality in people aged 40 years and older at the community level during the first wave of the pandemic in England, March-May 2020 compared with 2015–2019 • Results show that communities with an increased risk of excess mortality had a high density of care homes, and/or high proportion of residents on income support, living in overcrowded homes and/or with a non-white ethnicity. • Authors found no association between population density or air pollution and excess mortality. • Effective and timely public health and healthcare measures that target the communities at greatest risk are urgently needed to avoid further widening of inequalities in mortality patterns as the pandemic progresses.

19.06.2021	Organizational Support Experiences of Care Home and Home Care Staff in Sweden, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom during the COVID-19 Pandemic	Healthcare / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this study was to compare staff experiences of stress and anxiety as well as internal and external organizational support in Sweden, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom (UK) in order to determine how care staff were affected by the pandemic • Stress and anxiety levels were highest in the UK and Germany, with Swedish staff showing the least stress. Internal and external support only partially explain the outcomes. • Striking discrepancies between different staff groups' assessment of organizational support as well as a lack of staff voice in the UK and Germany could be key factors in understanding staff's stress levels during the pandemic. • Structural, political, cultural, and economic factors play a significant role, not only factors within the care organization or in the immediate context.
22.06.2021	Associations between changes in daily behaviors and self-reported feelings of depression and anxiety about the COVID-19 pandemic among older adults	J. of Gerontol. Series B. / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study utilized data from a nationally representative survey of US Medicare beneficiaries (aged ≥65 years), administered between June and October 2020 (n=3,122) to examine relationship between self-reported changes to daily behaviors (e.g., sleep, drinking alcohol, and exercise) and emotional impacts of COVID-19 • Authors found worse sleep quality, sleeping more or less, watching more television, and walking less, were associated with more feelings of depression and anxiety about COVID-19 • The findings highlight the behavioral changes associated with adverse emotional impacts among older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic. Future research may evaluate whether behavioral interventions may aim to attenuate the impact of pandemics on daily, modifiable behaviors to buffer against adverse emotional impacts

Preprints

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18.06.2021	Working in a care home during the COVID-19 pandemic: How has the pandemic changed working practices?	MedRxiv / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research aimed to explore impact of COVID-19 on working practices of care home staff, caring for people living with dementia. Remote qualitative, semi-structured interviews were conducted with care home staff caring for people living with dementia (PLWD) in the UK. Sixteen care home staff were included in this study. • Three overarching themes were developed from the analysis that conveyed changes to the everyday working practices of the care home workforce and the impact such changes posed to staff wellbeing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical implications of working in a care home during the COVID-19 pandemic; ○ Staff values and changes to the staff roles ○ Impact to the care home staff and concerns for the care sector • Support and guidance must be offered urgently to inform care home staff on how to best adapt to their new working practices, ensuring that they are adequately trained.
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Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
20.06.2021	Death, Devastation, and Failure in Long-Term Care: The Need for a Geographical Reengagement with the Sector	Philips, David R.; Andrews, Gavin J.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early and ongoing indications are that, across many countries, of all COVID-19 cases and deaths, those occurring in long-term care environments among older people are disproportionately high. • This chapter of '<i>COVID-19 and Similar Futures</i>' (ISBN 9783030701789) examines the nature of this current humanitarian crisis, the factors involved in this dire situation, and the implications for future regulation, policy, and geographical scholarship related to the sector. • The authors argue that the current crisis provides compelling reason and necessity for geographers to rejuvenate LTC as a field of study, and highlight some key avenues for inquiry.

21.06.2021	The COVID-19 pandemic and organizational resilience as unanticipated outcome of introducing socially assistive robots in nursing homes	Obayashi, Kazuko; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter reports on an initiative in Japan to balance quality of care with safer levels of staff contact in wake of COVID-19 pandemic. To meet these two conflicting goals, special measures were adopted in two of the six nursing homes with experience of a previous study in the use of robots entered a 24-week-long, pre-post, quasi-experimental multicenter study • Robots were introduced alongside a bedside infrared camera, which, in case of emergencies such as falls, sends alerts to the central nursing station, then to the person affected, to inform them that the nursing station is aware. • The six nursing homes indicated improvements in residents' targeted activities and participation. The stress level and work burden for care professionals during the nightshifts also decreased • This robotics-aided ICT system allowed us to maintain our services. During the period between February 2020 and January 2021 (333 days), there were only three cases where admissions had to be declined due to the risk of infection
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Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 22.06.2021	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.
Updated 23.06.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak.
Updated 23.06.2021	Overview of adult social care guidance on coronavirus (COVID-19)	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for adult social care providers on COVID-19 guidance and support.

23.06.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19): use of face coverings in social care settings including adult care homes	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for staff on use of face coverings in these settings.
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Evidence Summaries

Publication Date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
16.06.2021	Nursing homes during the COVID-19 pandemic: a scoping review of challenges and responses	Giri, Shamik Giri; Minn Chenn, Lee; Romero-Ortuno, Roman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping review aims to describe factors that contributed to the spread and mortality of COVID-19 in nursing homes and provide an overview of responses that were implemented to try to overcome such challenges. COVID-19 exerted severe challenges on the nursing home population and its staff. Both internal and external factors predisposed nursing homes to an increased propensity of spread. Numerous strategies were employed to attempt to mitigate the negative impacts. Substantial learning occurred that may not only aid future pandemic preparedness but improve quality of care for nursing home residents at all times.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
22.06.2021	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

22.06.2021	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.
22.06.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 16 June 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notifications related to COVID-19 in adult care homes during the coronavirus pandemic for 1 March 2020 to 20 May 2021.
23.06.2021	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
17.06.2021	Webinar announcement: COVID-19, vaccinations and immunity in care homes: emerging evidence from the VIVALDI (UK) and C19Immunity Study (Canada), 12th July, 2pm GMT	Hsu, Amy; Shallcross, Laura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This upcoming webinar will provide an overview of emerging evidence on the effectiveness of vaccinations among the care home population and will showcase two studies that are measuring COVID-19 immunity among care home populations in Canada and the UK. The webinar will last 90 minutes, with time for discussion in the last 30 minutes. The webinar will be recorded and a video will be shared afterwards. Free registration available at the linked Title/URL
23.06.2021	Webinar announcement: Learning from COVID-19: NIHR ARC Research on visiting in care homes (UK): 6th July	Goodman, Claire; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This upcoming webinar will open with presentation of a completed study looking at visiting in care homes and how these findings can inform future practice. It then showcases three studies. One recently completed that compared the evidence on what needs to be in place for effective online consultations with

			<p>the experience of health and social care staff during the pandemic, one with emerging findings and one, just starting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The final session is a discussion between participants and speakers to share learning, support cross organisation working and enable researchers and practitioners to discuss what works for residents and staff.• Free registration available at the linked Title/URL
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