



Public Health  
England

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## Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

16<sup>th</sup> July 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 the Netherlands, lessons learned from working in Dutch care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic; from Canada and the UK, the impact of Covid-19 vaccination on care home outbreaks due to variants of concern; from the USA, value of a systematic tool to translate guidance into evidence-based best practice to prevent and control Covid-19 in care homes; an international overview of the infection fatality rate for older people with Covid-19 in community settings; and reflections on the changes in delivering informal care to older people in response to Covid-19. Also from the UK, impact of visitation and cohorting policies on transmission of Covid-19 in nursing homes; an analysis of the lived experience of implementing infection control measures in response to Covid-19 in care homes; and a critique of mandatory Covid-19 vaccination for care home workers. Finally, summaries of other recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

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



## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
06.07.2021	Working in a Dutch nursing home during the COVID-19 pandemic: Experiences and lessons learned	Nursing Open / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study aimed to gain insight into how direct care staff in Dutch nursing homes experienced work during the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>• Themes emerging from the data were the loss of (daily) working structure, interference between work and private life for direct care staff, the importance of social support by the team and a leader, and the effects on relationship-centred care of the measures.</li> <li>• Results offer concrete implications for similar situations in the future: psychological support on-site; autonomy in daily work of care staff; an active role of a manager on the work floor and the importance of relationship-centred care.</li> </ul>
07.07.2021	Assessment of Anxiety in Elderly Population during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Impact of Compulsory Home-stay in the Central Districts of Ankara, Turkey: A Quantitative, Qualitative Mixed Method Study	International Journal of geriatric Psychiatry / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quantitative study was conducted using a structured online questionnaire with 278 participants aged 65 or older. The Geriatric Anxiety Inventory (GAI) was used to assess the anxiety. An in-depth interview with 20 participants was used to fill the gap of face-to-face interview due to pandemic situation and strengthen the results of quantitative survey.</li> <li>• Female gender, economic loss, uncertainty, and the time participants expend to follow news about COVID-19 pandemic were risk factors of GAD. On the other hand, higher education level, hobbies, and regular physical activity were protective factors against GAD.</li> </ul>
07.07.2021	Impact Of Visitation And Cohorting Policies To Shield Residents From Covid-19 Spread In Care Homes: An Agent-Based Model	American Journal of Infection Control / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights form the study include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Shielding residents in care homes is not as effective as previously predicted in a number of studies.</li> <li>○ Maintaining a low risk of transmission per contact helps reduce the effect of relaxing visitation.</li> <li>○ Cohorting of residents and staff reduces the spread of COVID-19.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The risk of outbreak occurrence in a care home is associated with its population size.</li> </ul>
08.07.2021	An outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 Delta (B.1.617.2) variant in a care home after partial vaccination with a single dose of the COVID-19 vaccine Vaxzevria, London, England, April 2021	Eurosurveillance / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In April 2021, a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak occurred at a care home in London, England, affecting both residents and staff, most of whom had received a single dose of Vaxzevria (ChAdOx1-S; AstraZeneca, Cambridge, UK) vaccine. Whole genome sequencing confirmed the outbreak was caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Delta variant (Phylogenetic Assignment of Named Global Outbreak (Pango) lineage designation B.1.617.2). The outbreak investigation and SARS-CoV-2 serology were used to understand the impact of vaccination against infection and hospitalisation among residents and staff.</li> </ul>
08.07.2021	COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a SARS-CoV-2 P.1 Lineage in a Long-Term Care Home after Implementation of a Vaccination Program – Ontario, April-May 2021	Clinical Infectious Diseases / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In a P.1 COVID-19 outbreak in long-term-care, vaccine effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2 infection was 52.5% (95%CI 26.9-69.8%) in residents and 62.2% (95%CI, 2.3-88.3%) in staff. VE against severe illness was 78.6% (95%CI 47.9-91.2) in residents. Two of 19 vaccinated resident cases died. Outbreak management required both vaccination and infection control measures.</li> </ul>
08.07.2021	Relationship between the Ownership Status of Nursing Homes and Their Outcomes During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Rapid Literature Review	Journal of Long-Term Care / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eighteen papers were included in this rapid review. These papers cover a period from March to July 2020. The majority of papers found a significant relationship in the unadjusted statistics between ownership status and effectiveness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the adjusted figures paint a more nuanced picture. The relationship seems to be mediated by other organisational (e.g., size), process (e.g., staff shortages) and contextual factors (e.g., regional spread of COVID-19) in comparison to ownership directly.</li> </ul>

<b>08.07.2021</b>	Application of the Haddon matrix to COVID-19 prevention and containment in nursing homes	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is essential that guidance be presented in an accessible and usable format to facilitate its translation into evidence-based best practice. In this article, we propose the Haddon matrix as a tool well-suited to this task.</li> <li>• The Haddon matrix is a conceptual model that organizes influencing factors into pre-event, event, and post-event phases, and into host, agent, and environment domains akin to the components of the epidemiologic triad.</li> <li>• Presented here is a novel application of the Haddon matrix to pandemic response in nursing homes, with practical applications for nursing home decision-makers in their efforts to prevent and contain COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>09.07.2021</b>	Single-dose mRNA vaccine effectiveness against SARS-CoV-2, including Alpha and Gamma variants: a test-negative design in adults 70 years and older in British Columbia, Canada	Clinical Infectious Diseases / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randomized-controlled trials of mRNA vaccine protection against SARS-CoV-2 included few elderly participants. We assess single-dose mRNA vaccine effectiveness (VE) in adults <math>\geq 70</math>-years-old in British Columbia (BC), Canada where second doses were deferred by up to 16 weeks and where a spring 2021 wave uniquely included co-dominant circulation of Alpha (B.1.1.7) and Gamma (P.1) variants of concern (VOC)</li> <li>• Authors conclude that a single dose of mRNA vaccine reduced the risk of SARS-CoV-2 by about two-thirds in adults <math>\geq 70</math>-years-old, with protection only minimally reduced against Alpha and Gamma variants.</li> </ul>
<b>10.07.2021</b>	Telehealth was Beneficial during COVID-19 for Older Americans: A Qualitative Study with Physicians	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals aged 65 and older face unique barriers to adoption of telehealth and the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic has provided a “natural experiment” in how to meet the health needs of older patients remotely.</li> <li>• In this qualitative analysis, physicians reported a rapid, iterative uptake of telehealth and attenuation of use as coronavirus disease 2019 prevalence declined.</li> </ul>
<b>11.07.2021</b>	Evaluation of the Mental Health of Care Home Staff in the Covid-19 Era. What price did care home	International Journal of geriatric Psychiatry / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This descriptive study comprised 210 CHWs who completed the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item Scale, the Patient Health Questionnaire-9, the Impact Event Scale-Revised, the Insomnia Severity Index, and the Health-related Quality of Life Questionnaire.</li> </ul>

	workers pay for standing by their patients?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86.19% of participants were female; 86.67% were aged under 55 years; 11% were physicians and 64.19% were nurses or auxiliaries; 77.62% have themselves tested positive for Covid-19, and 67.94% of CHWs have directly treated patients with Covid-19. 49.28% had clinical depression; over half (58.57%) had clinical anxiety; 70.95% had clinical stress; and 28.57% had clinical insomnia.</li> <li>Authors conclude this study confirms that symptomatology of anxiety, depression, stress, insomnia and HRQoL were affected amongst CHWs during the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>
12.07.2021	Bereavement from COVID-19, Gender, and Reports of Depression among Older Adults in Europe	Journal of Gerontology Series B / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authors analyzed Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) COVID-19 data collected between June-August 2020 from N=51,383 older adults (age 50–104) living in 27 countries, of whom 1,363 reported the death of a relative or friend from COVID-19.</li> <li>COVID-19 bereavement is associated with significantly higher probabilities of both reporting depression and reporting worsened depression among older adults. Net of one's own personal loss, living in a country with the highest COVID-19 mortality rate is associated with women's reports of worsened depression but not men's</li> </ul>
Sept 2021	Consequences of visiting restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic: An integrative review	International Journal of Nursing Studies / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total of 17 scientific papers covering intensive care, pediatric care, general medical care, hospital care, palliative care and nursing home settings were included in this integrative review</li> <li>Among physical health consequences, reduced nutrition intake, decreased activities of daily living and increased physical pain and symptoms were reported. Among mental health consequences for the patient, loneliness, depressive symptoms, agitation, aggression, reduced cognitive ability and overall dissatisfaction were observed.</li> </ul>

## Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
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09.07.2021	Caregiving in Times of Uncertainty: Helping Adult Children of Aging Parents Find Support during the COVID-19 Outbreak	SocArXiv / Commentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The COVID-19 pandemic, which is especially dangerous to older people, has disrupted the lives of older people and their family caregivers.</li> <li>• This commentary outlines the adaptive and emerging practices in formal supportive services for family caregivers, the changing types of support that family caregivers are providing to their older relatives, and the ways family caregivers are seeking informal caregiving support during the COVID-19 outbreak.</li> </ul>
10.07.2021	The Lived Experience of Implementing Infection Control Measures in Care Homes during two waves of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A mixed-methods study	MedRxiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study aimed to explore the lived experiences of care-home staff in implementing Infection Control Measures (ICMs).</li> <li>• COVID-19 has had a profound effect on well-being of care-home staff. Despite challenges, participants reported broadly good morale, potentially a consequence of supportive colleagues and management. Nevertheless, clear, concise and care-home focussed ICM guidance is still needed.</li> <li>• This should include evidence-based assessments on implementing and sustaining adherence. Groups of care-home staff and ICM experts working together to co-create, interpret and implement guidance were viewed positively.</li> </ul>
13.07.2021	Infection fatality rate of COVID-19 in community-dwelling populations with emphasis on the elderly: An overview	MedRxiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The infection fatality rate (IFR) of COVID-19 varies widely according to age and residence status. The purpose of this study was to estimate the IFR of COVID-19 in community-dwelling elderly populations and other age groups from seroprevalence studies.</li> <li>• twenty-three seroprevalence surveys representing 14 countries were included. Across all countries, the median IFR in community-dwelling elderly and elderly overall was 2.4% and 5.5%.</li> <li>• IFR was higher with larger proportions of people &gt;85 years. Younger age strata had low IFR values.</li> </ul>

### Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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13.07.2021	Commissioner's priorities for 2021-22	Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru   Older People's Commissioner for Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a light on many pre-existing inequalities and injustices faced by older people and has demonstrated how older people's rights may not be as secure as had been assumed. In response to this, the Commissioner has identified Protecting and Promoting Older People's Rights as one of her key priorities for 2021-22, alongside the three published in her 2019-22 Strategy.</li> </ul>
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## Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
09.07.2021	COVID-19: Normalising Visiting in Long Term Residential Care Facilities (LTRCFs)	Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents in LTRCFs in Ireland have the right to receive visitors to support meaningful contact with family members if they wish to do so and also to participate in the life of the wider community.</li> <li>This document aims to support providers in fulfilling their responsibility by giving guidance to management, staff, residents and relatives to ensure that any restriction on those rights in the context of COVID-19 are proportionate to the risk at that time.</li> </ul>
13.07.2021	COVID-19 Guidance for Healthcare Staff in Residential Care	HSE Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated guidance on COVID-19 precautions in Irish care homes, as well as broader implications for the future of the pandemic, including the impact of the Delta or yet-unseen variants</li> <li>This slidedeck was originally presented as a webinar, <a href="#">available online via this link</a>, and using the password: VsXjgqJ4</li> </ul>

## Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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<b>13.07.2021</b>	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority</li> </ul>
<b>13.07.2021</b>	Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>14.07.2021</b>	Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland.</li> </ul>

## Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
08.07.2021	Mandatory covid-19 vaccination for care home workers	Lydia Hayes, Allyson M Pollock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In a profound departure from public health norms, new law will remove the right of care home staff in England to choose whether to be vaccinated against covid-19</li> <li>The providers' associations Care England and the National Care Forum, as well as trade unions, have expressed concern that coercion is not the best way forward</li> </ul>
09.07.2021	Video and slides of the webinar: Taking stock of Covid-19 and the Long-Term Care sector in Germany (5th July 2021)	Klara Lorenz-Dant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This webinar, chaired by Klara Lorenz-Dant (Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science) brought together researchers who have been analysing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Long-Term Care sector in Germany.</li> </ul>