



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

20th August 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 is a bumper edition collating emerging research from the past two weeks and includes: from Germany, Spain, Ireland and more widely across Europe, Israel, Japan, Chile, Canada and USA, further evidence of some of the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of protective measures for older people, their families and their carers; also from the USA, further evidence of a relationship between adverse outcomes for COVID-19 infection and poorer quality ratings in nursing homes, evidence of benefit of a multi-faced approach to prevention including continued use of recommended screening, testing and infection prevention practices as well as vaccination to keep residents in nursing homes safe, experience from implementation of COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment in a community nursing home; and finally a scoping review of the evidence for leisure and recreational activities in helping to maintain the mental health of older people during the COVID-19 pandemic; from Norway and France, further positive impacts of COVID-19 vaccination in older people, and from Sweden further evidence for the role of socio-demographic factors in influencing the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines among older people.

From the UK, evidence of a robust and sustained immune response after natural infection with SARS-CoV-2 among older people in long-term care facilities which may influence future vaccine strategy, further lessons for advance care planning for care home residents from the COVID-19 pandemic, a systematic review of the impact of social isolation and loneliness on the risk of dementia, and a scoping review of evidence to support work related wellbeing of frontline 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.kohapfts.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
06.08.2021	Doing time in care homes: insights into the experiences of care home residents in Germany during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic	Aging & Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents of care homes across the globe are affected by the spread of SARS-CoV-2 as they have been identified as a high-risk group and because they experienced strict social isolation regulations during the first wave of the pandemic. The aim of this research project was to investigate how this applied to residents in care home settings during the first phases of the contact ban in Germany from sociology, developmental psychology and environmental gerontology perspectives, and to gain in-depth understanding of residents' experiences. The paper draws on structured interview data collected from residents in two care homes during early June 2020 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Findings show that their experiences were shaped by three factors: care home settings and the approach of staff to handling the contact ban; biographical sense of resilience; and a hierarchy of life issues. Results highlight the importance of locally specific response mechanisms in care homes, agency and belonging of residents despite health-related limitations and the importance of a critical (gendered) lens on understanding their experiences.
06.08.2021	U.S. Nursing Home Quality Ratings Associated with COVID-19 Cases and Deaths Introduction	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study authors extend current evidence on the relationships between NH quality and resident COVID-19 infection rates and deaths, taking into account NH structural characteristics and community characteristics. Authors conclude that COVID-19 case and death rates were substantially higher among NHs with lower star ratings, suggesting that NHs with quality much below average are more susceptible to the spread of COVID-19.

06.08.2021	Implementation of a COVID-19 Vaccination Condition of Employment in a Community Nursing Home	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This case study summarizes the timeline of vaccination uptake activities, staff vaccination rates over time, and stakeholder perspectives around the implementation of a COVID-19 Vaccine Condition of Employment (COE).
07.08.2021	Supercentenarians that Survived COVID-19	Aging and Disease / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least a quarter of a thousand people over the age of 105 years have tested positive for the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) • Remarkably, more than half of the completed cases have successfully recovered from the SARS-CoV-2 infection (101 have survived and 97 have died, as of the 3rd of August 2021).
07.08.2021	COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults: The Role of Information Sources	Journal of Applied Gerontology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite high enthusiasm surrounding the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine, some older adults continue to remain hesitant about its receipt. • Relative to those relying on regular news, those depending on health care providers (HCPs), social media, other internet/webpages, and family/friends as the main information source on COVID-19 expressed higher negative vaccine intent.
07.08.2021	Increased anxiety about falls and walking ability among community-dwelling Japanese older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic	Psychogeriatrics / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the physical and mental changes in community-dwelling elderly people is important when considering preventative measures during the COVID-19 pandemic • The study participants were 127 older people who participated in successive surveys, in the summers of 2019 and again in 2020, after the state of emergency. The Locomo 25 questionnaire, Geriatric Depression Scale-15 (GDS-15) questionnaire, medical history, and number of people living together were self-reported. • Authors conclude: Older adults showed almost no changes in body pain and locomotive disabilities, but increases in their anxieties about walking ability and falling were remarkable.

07.08.2021	<p>“I Didn’t Meet My Mother; I Saw My Mother”: The Challenges Facing Long-Term Care Residents and Their Families in the Age of COVID-19</p>	J. of Applied Gerontology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines the effects of protective measures due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic within long-term care (LTC) settings on residents and their family members. Open-ended qualitative interviews were conducted with 14 family members of older adults who resided in LTC settings during the first wave of the pandemic in Israel. The first theme identified is Rupture, including the physical disconnect; the disruption in routine treatment to residents; and decline in the satisfaction with the setting. The second theme is Response, including sharing viewpoints and involvement in decision-making, as well as an intense ambivalence shared by family members. Authors’ findings highlight the distress caused to residents and family members by the isolation and restrictions in LTC settings during the pandemic and underscore values and priorities that are central to them and their family members, including maintaining continuity, transparency, and working in unison with their families, staff, and management.
09.08.2021	<p>Developing and evaluating online COVID-centric advance care planning training and information resources for nursing staff and family members in nursing homes: the necessary discussions study protocol</p>	BMC Geriatrics / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study aims to develop and evaluate advance care planning (ACP) COVID-centric online training and information resources for nursing home staff and family members of residents, to improve care at the end of life during a COVID-19 outbreak. The content of the training and information resources will be based on a rapid review of literature and guidance on ACP in the context of COVID-19 and consultation with the study expert reference group. An integrated communications company will then work alongside the research team to design the online training and information resources.
09.08.2021	<p>Older Adults’ Mental Health Through Leisure Activities</p>	Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older adults are at high risk for mental health distress due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. This scoping review aimed to map emerging evidence on the types of leisure and recreation

	During COVID-19: A Scoping Review		<p>activities (LRA) adults, 60 years and older, are engaged in for their mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A narrative synthesis of the data revealed age cohorts of young-old (60–69 years) and middle-old (70–79 years) engaging mainly in online LRA for mental health compared to the older-old adults (80 years and older). The middle-old (70–79 years) and older-old adults (80–89 years) engaged in more physical LRA for mental health compared to the younger-old adults. Across age cohorts, the older adults engaged in social connectedness LRA for mental health wellbeing
09.08.2021	“We Are Saving Their Bodies and Destroying Their Souls.”: Family Caregivers’ Experiences of Formal Care Setting Visitation Restrictions during the COVID-19 Pandemic	Journal of Aging & Social policy / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants ($N = 512$) were recruited from an international caregiving social media site that was developed at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Descriptive data was collected on the family caregivers, the care recipient and facility. • The most common reported feeling words were sadness ($n = 200$), trauma ($n = 108$), anger ($n = 65$), frustration ($n = 56$), helplessness ($n = 50$), and anxiety ($n = 36$). Thematic analysis revealed four overarching themes: 1) isolation 2) rapid decline 3) inhumane care and 4) lack of oversight.
09.08.2021	Living Through the COVID-19 Pandemic: Community-Dwelling Older Adults’ Experiences	Journal of Aging & Social policy / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adults living in Central Texas ($N = 200$; age, 65–92 years, $M = 73.6 \pm 6.33$) responded to a telephone interview during June–August 2020. Data were analyzed using inductive thematic analysis. We identified three key themes: positive, mixed, and negative experiences, with a total of 11 subthemes. • Recognizing the complexities of older adults’ lived experiences, tailored policies and interventions can be developed to effectively leverage older adults’ effective coping and resilience while at the same time helping overcome negative effects among specific subgroups.

09.08.2021	Practice Based Approaches to Supporting the Work Related Wellbeing of Frontline Care Workers in Care Homes: A Scoping Review	Journal of Long-Term Care / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aim of this study was to map the extent and nature of the care home specific evidence base and identify key interventions, theories and practice components. • Thematic synthesis identified the following four key themes: Culture of Care; Content of Work; Connectedness with Colleagues and Characteristics and Competencies of Care Home Leaders. • Overall, the evidence base was found to be theoretically, empirically and practically fragmented and as a result, there is at present, no consensus about which areas of work related wellbeing, if addressed, would have most impact. Compounding this lack of coherence, is the limited specificity of the studies.
10.08.2021	The Impact of COVID-19 in an Assisted Living Community	Geriatric Nursing / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this study was to use routinely collected resident assessment data from a single site to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on cognition, physical function and behavioral symptoms of residents with dementia. • Twelve residents from a single memory care site with required Resident Assessments completed prior to and 12 month post initiation of the pandemic and associated quarantines were included. No significant change was noted in function or behavioral symptoms but there was a statistically significant decline in cognition over the 12 month period.
10.08.2021	Living in rural area:a protective factor for a negative experience of the lockdown and the COVID-19 crisis in the oldest old population?	International Journal or Geriatric Psychiatry / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone interviews conducted by psychologists focused on the lockdown period. Data collected included living environment, professional assistance, social support, contacts with relatives, difficulties encountered, health, and knowledge and representations of the epidemic. • Results of the study show that persons living in rural area had better social support, greater family presence, a less frequent feeling of imprisonment (OR=0.60, 95CI%=0.36-0.99), 95% had a

			garden (vs. 56%), fewer depressive symptoms and lower anxiety scores, but also tended to lower comply with the health measures.
10.08.2021	Fisetin for COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities (COVID-FIS): Senolytic Trials in the COVID Era	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study describes an NIH-funded, multi-center, placebo-controlled clinical trial of Fisetin for older adult skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents who have been, or become, SARS-CoV-2 rtPCR-positive, including the rationale for targeting fundamental aging mechanisms in such patients. Authors consider logistic challenges of conducting trials in long-term care settings in the SARS-CoV-2 era, including restricted access, consent procedures, methods for obtaining biospecimens and clinical data, staffing, investigational product administration issues, and potential solutions for these challenges.
10.08.2021	Impact of Fever Thresholds in Detection of COVID-19 in VA Community Living Center Residents	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents with positive SARS-CoV-2 tests were classified as asymptomatic if they did not experience any symptoms, and as symptomatic or pre-symptomatic if they experienced a fever (>100.4°F) before or following a positive SARS-CoV-2 test, respectively. Among residents with positive tests and using >100.4°F, 321 (21%) were symptomatic, 425 (27%) were pre-symptomatic and 811 (52%) were asymptomatic. All-cause 30-day mortality among residents with symptomatic and pre-symptomatic COVID-19 infections was 24% and 26%, respectively, while those with an asymptomatic infection had mortality rates similar to residents with negative SAR-CoV-2 tests (10% and 5%, respectively).
10.08.2021	Accuracy of ICD-10 codes for identifying skilled nursing facility residents with lab-confirmed COVID-19	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using electronic health record (EHR) data, authors examined the frequency of COVID-19 ICD-10 documentation among skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents with lab-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection. To our knowledge, this is the first attempt to validate ICD-10 codes against clinical testing data for the purpose of identifying

			<p>COVID-19 cases. These findings from a large multistate sample of SNF residents suggest that the U07.1 code can be used with reasonable accuracy to identify individual cases of COVID-19 in this population.</p>
11.08.2021	Mental health and well-being for aging adults during the COVID-19 pandemic	Aging & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this study is to better understand how COVID-19 experiences, food insecurities, and social support are associated with mental health and well-being for aging populations. • The authors discussion highlights the role of COVID-19 experiences, tangible resource losses, and community connection in mental health outcomes for aging populations during COVID-19.
11.08.2021	Impact of social isolation and coping strategies in older adults with mild cognitive impairment during the covid-19 pandemic: A qualitative study	Aging & Mental Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten participants with a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) took part in this study. • Thematic analysis identified three themes related to the quarantine experience of older adults with MCI diagnosis: (1) Effects of social isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic (2) Believes, feelings and behaviors about the SARS-CoV-2 virus (3) Coping with social isolation/response to difficulties during the pandemic.
12.08.2021	The covid-19 pandemic and care homes for older people in Europe - deaths, damage and violations of human rights	European J. of Social Work / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout Europe the most damaging consequences of the coronavirus have fallen disproportionately on older people who live in care homes. This study involves the analysis of secondary data sources relating to deaths, and related harms, in European care homes from seven countries between March and December 2020. • Findings findings are reviewed using the framework of the European Convention on Human Rights to identify examples of human rights violations - namely the right to life, liberty and security, respect for private and family life, and prohibition of torture, and general prohibition of discrimination.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant contributing factor to the scale and nature of deaths and harms is the abject disregard of older people's human rights. • Based on the findings, the authors, a group of social work academics, call for an urgent re-examination of the role of social work in relationship to care homes and the importance of re-engaging with human rights issues for care home residents.
12.08.2021	First-Dose Coronavirus 2019 Vaccination Coverage among the Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities in France	Gerontology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of this study was to estimate the vaccination coverage rate among the residents of French Long Term Care Facilities • Among the 4,808 residents, the average coverage rate for COVID-19 vaccination was 69%, and 46% of the LTCFs had a coverage rate <70%. Among unvaccinated residents, we observed more frequently a history of COVID-19 or a positive serology for SARS-CoV-2 (44.6 vs. 11.2% among vaccinated residents, $p < 0.001$), a history of severe allergy (3.7 vs. 0.1%, $p < 0.001$), end-of-life situation (4.9 vs. 0.3%, $p < 0.001$), current infectious or acute illness (19.6 vs. 0.3%, $p < 0.001$), and refusal of vaccination by residents or representative persons (38.9 vs. 0.4%, $p < 0.001$). • Thus about 3 out of 10 residents remained unvaccinated, and half of the LTCFs had a coverage rate <70%. • This suggests that COVID-19 will remain a threat to many LTCFs after the vaccination campaigns.
13.08.2021	The Biopsychosocial Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults	Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biopsychosocial model explores the interconnection of psychological, social and biological mechanisms as the determinants of health and disease. • This model emphasizes that a person's physical state is heavily dependent on their social and mental state, and these elements of disease must be considered together rather than as separate entities.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors conclude that the impact of COVID-19 on health after infection can be recognized in multiple biological systems. Furthermore, COVID-19 has been implicated in declines in cognitive and motor function, as well as the development of new psychiatric diagnoses.
13.08.2021	Impact of the COVID-19 Lockdown on a Long-Term Care Facility: The Role of Social Contact	Brain Sciences / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) have been harmed by the coronavirus, and older adults have remained isolated for a long time with many restrictions. The aim of this study was to measure the decline in cognitive, functional, and affective status in a care facility after the lockdown in the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and to compare it with previous measures in order to determine if this decline was accelerated. • Results showed the cognitive and functional scores were lower and depression scores were higher after the strict lockdown, accelerating a general pattern of decline that was already present in LTCF residents. • The frequency of social contact eliminated the measurement differences in the cognitive and functional scores and the group differences in depression scores. • The effects of the SARS-CoV-2 lockdown in an LTCF were mediated by the frequency of contact. Preventive measures must be taken to ensure social contact with relatives and friends and reduce the negative consequences of social isolation in LTCFs
13.08.2021	Ecological Analysis of the Decline in Incidence Rates of COVID-19 among Nursing Home Residents Associated with Vaccination, United States, December 2020-January 2021	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study aimed to evaluate if facility-level vaccination after an initial vaccination clinic was independently associated with COVID-19 incidence adjusted for other factors in January 2021 among nursing home residents. • In December 2020 and January 2021, incidence of COVID-19 among nursing home residents declined to the lowest point since reporting began in May, diverged from the pattern in community cases, and began dropping before vaccination occurred.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing week 3 following an initial vaccination clinic versus week 2, the adjusted reduction in COVID-19 rate in vaccinated facilities was 27% greater than the reduction in facilities where vaccination clinics had not yet occurred (95% confidence interval: 14–38%, $p < 0.05$). • Results demonstrate vaccination of residents contributed to the decline in COVID-19 incidence in nursing homes; however other factors also contributed. • The decline in COVID-19 was evident prior to widespread vaccination highlighting the benefit of a multifaced approach to prevention including continued use of recommended screening, testing and infection prevention practices as well as vaccination to keep residents in nursing homes safe.
14.08.2021	Analysis of COVID-19 outbreaks in three long-term care facilities in Graz, Austria	American Journal of Infection Control / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives of the study were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (1) to elucidate transmission pathways of SARS-CoV-2 ○ (2) to analyse signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in the residents and health care workers of LTCFs ○ (3) to identify risk factors for unfavourable outcomes.
14.08.2021	Prevention and Control of COVID-19 Risks for Long-Term Care Facilities Based on the Prospect Theory	Mobile Networks & Applications / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To study the prevention and control strategies of COVID-19 risks in long-term care facilities, this study uses the prospect theory to establish the decision-making models for the different risk responses of the caregivers and the managers, formulates the optimal strategies by comparing the prospective value of their gain from different risk responses. • The influences of factors such as the stakeholders' behaviour, risk management cost, risk loss and external regulation on the two parties' risk response decisions are discussed. • The constraints for the caregivers and the managers to achieve the optimal risk management strategies are analyzed from the perspective of long-term care facilities.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The result reveals the internal mechanism of risk behavior decision-making by the caregivers and managers in long-term care facilities, deepens the cognition of COVID-19 risks by caregivers and managers, and contributes to the transformation, decomposition and effective prevention and control of COVID-19 risks in long-term care facilities.
15.08.2021	COVID-19 Incidence and Mortality among Long-Term Care Facility Residents and Staff in South Carolina	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cox proportional hazards were used to compare COVID-19 mortality in LTCF residents and staff to community dwelling older adults and adults not employed in LTCF, respectively, controlling for age, gender, race, and pre-existing chronic health conditions. Results from the study show LTC residents experienced greater incidence of cases throughout the study period until the week ending on 1/2/21. LTCF residents with COVID-19 were more likely to be hospitalized compared to older adults in the community and 74% more likely to die (HR: 1.74, 95% CI: 1.59-1.90), after adjusting. LTC staff experienced greater incidence of cases compared to adults not employed in LTCF until the week ending on 12/26/2020, while experiencing similar incidence of death compared to the similar community members. After adjusting, LTC staff had 0.58 (HR=0.58; CI: 0.39-0.88) times lower hazard of death compared to community members that did not work in a LTCF.

Preprints

Publication Date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
09.08.2021	High vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection	MedRxiv / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> estimated vaccine effectiveness (VE) among residents and health care workers (HCWs) in LTCFs using Cox regressions.

	and severe disease among residents and staff of long-term care facilities in Norway, November – June 2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VE against SARS-CoV-2 infection was 81.5 (95%CI: 75.3 – 86.1 82.7%) and 81.4% (95%CI: 74.5-86.4%) \geq 7 days after 2nd vaccine dose among residents and staff respectively. • The VE against COVID-19 associated death was 93.1% among residents, no hospitalisations occurred among HCW \geq7 days after 2nd dose.
12.08.2021	Staff Experience of a Canadian Long-Term Care Home During a COVID-19 Outbreak: A Qualitative Study	Researchsquare / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 has significant impact on long-term care (LTC) residents and staff. The purpose of this paper is to report the data gathered during a COVID-19 outbreak in a Canadian LTC home regarding staff experiences, challenges, and needs, to offer lessons learned and implications. • Four main themes were identified: 'We are Proud,' 'We Felt Anxious,' 'We Grew Closer to Residents and Staff Members,' and 'The Vaccines Help'. • This research details the resilience that characterizes staff in LTC, while highlighting the emotional toll of the pandemic, particularly during an outbreak. LTC staff in this study found innovative ways to connect and support residents and this resulted in stronger connections and relationships. • Leadership and organizational support are pivotal for supporting team resilience to manage crisis and adapt positively in times of COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the period of outbreak.
13.08.2021	COVID-19 vaccine uptake among older people in relation to sociodemographic factors –cohort results from southern Sweden	MedRxiv / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cohort study aimed to investigate sociodemographic determinants of COVID-19 vaccine uptake in the 70+ age group in Skåne county, Sweden (n = 216 243 at baseline). • Uptake of the first dose was high (91.9%) overall, but markedly lower (75.3%) among persons born outside the Nordic countries. • Vaccine uptake was generally satisfactory among native Swedes also in areas with lower socioeconomic status, but dropped substantially among non-Nordic born in those areas.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The identified clusters of unvaccinated older people, mainly representing ethnic minorities in disadvantaged areas, warrants intensified efforts regarding tailored communication, easier vaccine access and local engagement.
18.08.2021	Robust SARS-CoV-2-specific and heterologous immune responses after natural infection in elderly residents of Long-Term Care Facilities	MedRxiv / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term care facilities (LTCF) provide residential and/or nursing care support for frail and elderly people and many have suffered from a high prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 infection. Though mortality rates have been high in LTCF residents there is little information regarding the features of SARS-CoV-2-specific immunity after infection in this setting or how this may influence immunity to other infections. Authors studied humoral and cellular immunity against SARS-CoV-2 in 152 LTCF staff and 124 residents over a prospective 4-month period shortly after the first wave of infection and related viral serostatus to heterologous immunity to other respiratory viruses and systemic inflammatory markers. Findings suggest LTCF residents who are survivors of SARS-CoV-2 infection show a robust and stable immunity which does not impact responses to other seasonal viruses. This augurs augur well for relative protection of LTCF residents to re-infection, and furthermore, underlines the influence of previous infection on the immune response to Covid-19 vaccine, which may prove to be an important determinant of future vaccine strategy.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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Updated 16.08.2021	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 16.08.2021	Vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 11 November 2021, anyone working or volunteering in a care home will need to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus (COVID-19), unless exempt.
08.08.2021	Getting back towards normalising visiting in nursing homes: Information for residents and visitors	Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This leaflet gives information for residents and visitors about enjoying visits to family and friends in nursing homes in a way that keeps the risk of COVID-19 as low as possible.
Updated 12.08.2021	COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings	PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on the management of staff, patients and residents who have been exposed to COVID-19.
12.08.2021	COVID-19: wider impacts on people aged 65 and over	PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An estimation of the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) on physical activity and falls in older adults and recommendations to mitigate these effects.
Updated 17.08.2021	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 17.08.2021	Supported living services during coronavirus (COVID-19)	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for providers of supported living settings.

Updated 17.08.2021	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 17.08.2021	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).
Updated 17.08.2021	COVID-19: how to work safely in care homes	PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information for those working in care homes on how to work safely during this period of sustained transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).
Updated 17.08.2021	Interim Public Health, Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19 Cases and Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities	Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guideline addresses measures needed to achieve all of the following elements: The first is to take all practical measures to reduce unintended introduction of the virus into the residential care facility, the second element is to take all practical measures to reduce the risk of the virus spreading if introduced and the third element is having processes in place to minimise the risk of harm to residents and staff if both other elements fail and the virus is introduced and spreads. The latest update incorporates both an to the section on Clinical Features of Covid-19, and a Statement that all company representatives and staff working for external contractors in clinical areas should be fully vaccinated or risk assessed

Evidence Summaries

Publication Date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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07.08.2021	COVID-19, loneliness, social isolation and risk of dementia in older people: a systematic review and meta-analysis of the relevant literature	Lazzari, Carlo; Rabottini, Marco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic review meta-analysis of the studies that approach the risk of dementia in older people with social isolation and feelings of loneliness (SIFL) • The ten studies selected for meta-analysis utilised an opportunistic sample of older people in the community from age 50 to above with no dementia and enrolment. The populations consisted of cohorts of an average of 8,239 people, followed for a mean period of 6.41 years. Random effect meta-analysis summarised the Cox Proportional Hazard Ratios and Relative Risks of the individual studies. • Results of the meta-analysis show that in older people, the risk of developing dementia because of the impact of prolonged loneliness and social isolation is about 49 to 60% [HR/HR = 1.49; CI₉₅=1.37–1.61] higher than in those who are not lonely and socially isolated. • The biopsychosocial model of dementia supports the need for more integrated social programs and reduced risks for the older persons who, during the COVID-19 lockdown, have suffered from deprivation of support from primary carers and restricted social interactions
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Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
11.08.2021	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.

17.08.2021	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
17.08.2021	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 the coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.
17.08.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 11 August 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 11 August.