



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
20th August 2020

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: evidence of the potential benefits of early treatment with doxycycline in a series of patients with COVID-19 in long term care facilities; strategies for tackling the challenge of Alzheimer's disease during the COVID-19 pandemic; and evidence of the benefits of self-confinement of staff with residents from French nursing homes. From the UK, a review of approaches to advance care planning with recommendations for health and social care. Finally, a summary of recent published guidance and statistics including evidence of a link between increasing numbers of cases of COVID-19 in nursing homes and increasing numbers in the local community, from the USA.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
11.08.2020	<p>Clinical Outcomes of Early Treatment With Doxycycline for 89 High-Risk COVID-19 Patients in Long-Term Care Facilities in New York</p>	Cureus / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of this retrospective study examining 89 patients who were diagnosed with COVID-19 from March 18 to May 13, 2020 is to describe the clinical outcomes of high-risk COVID-19 patients with moderate to severe symptoms in LTCFs after early intervention with doxycycline (DOXY). • All patients who were diagnosed with COVID-19 received DOXY and regular standard of care within 12 hours of the onset of symptoms. Additionally, four patients received meropenem, three patients received Zosyn, two patients received linezolid, and two patients received Bactrim DS. Four patients were on chronic ventilator support. No patients received any steroids or any other antiviral or immunomodulatory agents. The majority of the patients received zinc and calcium supplements as well. • Assessed measures were patients' characteristics, fever, shortness of breath (SOB), cough, oxygen saturation/pulse oximetry (POX), radiologic improvements, laboratory tests, DOXY side effects, hospital transfers, and death. • Eighty-five percent (85%) of patients (n=76) demonstrated clinical recovery. Within 10 days of symptom onset, 3% of patients (n=3) were transferred to hospital due to clinical deterioration and 11% of patients (n=10) died. The result was followed for 30 days from the onset of symptoms in each patient. • Early treatment with DOXY for high-risk patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 infections in non-hospital settings, such as LTCFs, is associated with early clinical recovery, decreased hospitalization, and decreased mortality.
12.08.2020	<p>Tackling challenges in care of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias amid the COVID-19 pandemic, now and in the future</p>	Alzheimer's and Dementia / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts forward strategies for developing comprehensive home-based care for community dwelling people with dementia, as well as strategies for optimizing care and management of patients in care/nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

<p>13.08.2020</p>	<p>Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outcomes in French Nursing Homes That Implemented Staff Confinement With Residents</p>	<p>JAMA Network Open / Article</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cohort study including 17 nursing homes with staff self-confinement and 9513 nursing homes in a national survey found that nursing homes with staff self-confinement experienced lower mortality related to COVID-19 among residents and lower incidence of COVID-19 among residents and staff members than rates recorded in a national survey. • Findings suggest that self-confinement of nursing home staff members with residents may help protect residents from mortality related to COVID-19 and residents and staff from COVID-19 infection.
<p>14.08.2020</p>	<p>Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Involving Residents Receiving Dialysis in a Nursing Home — Maryland, April 2020</p>	<p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigation of a COVID-19 outbreak in a Maryland nursing home identified a significantly higher prevalence among residents receiving dialysis (47%) than among those not receiving dialysis (16%); 72% were asymptomatic at the time of testing. • Residents leaving their rooms for dialysis could be a potential source of SARS-CoV-2 introduction into the nursing home and might pose an underrecognized source of transmission, both in the dialysis center and in the nursing home. Better monitoring and understanding of the risks associated with residents who regularly leave the facility for outpatient health care is needed. Implementing procedures that ensure use of masks, social distancing, and improved ventilation during transportation and in waiting areas is important for preventing SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
<p>14.08.2020</p>	<p>Facility-Wide Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Nursing Homes — Seven U.S. Jurisdictions, March–June 2020</p>	<p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In two health department jurisdictions, testing in facilities without a previous COVID-19 case identified a prevalence of 0.4%. Five health department jurisdictions that targeted facility-wide testing after identification of a case found a prevalence of 12%; for each additional day before completion of initial facility-wide testing, an estimated 1.3 additional cases were identified. • Performing facility-wide testing rapidly following identification of a case in a nursing home might facilitate control of transmission among residents and health care personnel. Strategies are

			needed to optimize facility-wide testing in nursing homes without a reported case.
14.08.2020	Time to Strategically Position Nursing Homes to Effectively Manage Emerging Infections	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In an effort to support early risk mitigation and emergency preparedness in response to SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging infections, authors urge the Federal Government response to consider the following: • Provide adequate funding, training, and guidance to nursing homes (NHs) to develop, implement, and adopt robust certified NH health information technology designed for, and with, NHs; • Invest in and bridge infection prevention/infection control and antimicrobial stewardship within NHs with technology platforms.
18.08.2020	Advance care planning in the community in the context of COVID-19	Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service, Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks at what enables or hinders people in the community to make or update advance care plans in the context of Covid-19, and how those working in health and social care can best support this process.

Preprints (non-peer reviewed)

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17.08.2020	COVID-19 among nursing staff: Settings and regional differences	MedRxiv / Article	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study was carried out to describe settings of and regional differences in the occurrence of COVID-19 among nursing staff in Austria, analysing COVID-19 symptoms, testing and diagnosis procedures. • In total, 1.6% of the participating nurses were tested for COVID-19. • Only 1% of the nurses who worked in nursing homes were tested. This group of nurses takes care of the most vulnerable and high-risk group in Austrian society. Therefore, the nursing home staff should have the possibility to be tested even though they did not experience/report any symptoms.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
10.08.2020	Nursing Homes Incurring Significant Costs and Financial Hardship in Response to COVID-19: August 8-10, 2020	American Health Care Association, National Center for Assisted Living / Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveyed 463 U.S. nursing home providers. • 55% of nursing homes are operating at a loss. • 72% of nursing homes said they could not operate another year at the current pace, and 40% said they would not be able to operate for another 6 months. • 77% said government funding was "extremely important" in helping with COVID-related costs and losses, including purchasing PPE, hiring new staff, and increasing pay for existing staff.
18.08.2020	Leave no-one behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery	Heléna Herklots, Older People's Commissioner for Wales / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out short term actions that need to be taken now and over the next three months, including: • Publish and implement an action plan for care homes ahead of the winter; • Repeal sections of the Coronavirus Act that risk limiting older people's rights; • Reinstate the social care support that has been suspended during the lockdown; • Establish a rehabilitation programme for older people. • Also includes longer-term actions such as: • A healthy ageing programme; • Reform of social care funding; • Improve engagement with older people in the development of services; • Appoint a Chief Social Care Officer in the Welsh Government; • Conduct a review of spending on social care.
18.08.2020	Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) Compliance Assessment Tool	National Care Forum, Quality Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports not-for-profit care providers to assess their own practices, and prepare evidence for audit which not only meets CQC requirements but also conforms to international

		Systems, Standards Wise International	standards. Document is broken down into 8 sections: Visitors; Social Distancing; Admissions; PPE; Testing; Premises; Staff Practice; Policy.
19.08.2020	COVID-19 Nursing Homes Expert Panel: Final Report	Government of Ireland Department of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report contains a range of recommendations in line with lessons learned to date and international best practice, aimed to safeguard the residents in nursing homes over the next 12-18 months and into the longer term.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 13.08.2020	COVID-19 - information and guidance for social, community and residential care settings	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance is to support those working in Social, Community and Residential care settings including sheltered housing and hospices to give advice to their staff and users of their services about COVID-19.
Updated 14.08.2020	Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes	Department of Health & Social Care, Care Quality Commission, Public Health England, NHS England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance is for care homes, local health protection teams, local authorities, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and registered providers of accommodation for people who need personal or nursing care. It sets out how to admit and care for residents safely and protect care home staff.
Updated 18.08.2020	COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings	Public Health England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance provides advice on the management of staff and patients or residents in health and social care settings according to exposures, symptoms and test results. Section 4 has been updated to include when health and social care staff can be exempt from being considered a contact for the purposes of Test and Trace.
Updated 18.08.2020	COVID-19 - guidance for stepdown of infection control precautions and discharging COVID-19 patients from hospital to residential settings	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance provides advice on appropriate discontinuation of infection prevention and control (IPC) precautions for patients recovering or recovered from COVID-19 and either remaining in hospital, being discharged to their own home or to nursing and residential homes.

Updated 19.08.2020	COVID-19 - guidance for domiciliary care	Health Protection Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This guidance is to support those working in domiciliary care settings to give advice to their staff and users of their services about COVID-19. This includes registered providers, social care staff, local authorities and care staff who support and deliver care to people in their own homes (including supported living settings).
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Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
13.08.2020	Excess mortality in English regions	Public Health England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excess mortality by English region; broken down by age, sex, upper tier local authority, ethnic group, level of deprivation, cause of death and place of death, including care homes.
Updated 17.08.2020	Nursing Homes See Spike in New COVID Cases Due to Community Spread in Sun Belt States	American Health Care Association, National Center for Assisted Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the report, COVID-related deaths in nursing homes had declined significantly, but have started to increase again with 69% of COVID-related deaths in nursing homes coming from the Sun Belt. Shows the increase of COVID cases in nursing homes is a direct result of the major spikes in the general population of the Sun Belt region with 78% of new cases in nursing homes coming from those states by the end of July.
18.08.2020	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	Office for National Statistics & Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority up to week ending 14 August.
18.08.2020	Notifications of deaths of residents related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March to 14 August 2020	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data presented here are based on the Notifications of Service User Deaths received by Care Inspectorate Wales from adult care homes which relate to their residents. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.
19.08.2020	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, including:

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing for COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland split by care homes with confirmed Covid-19 and without confirmed Covid-19, presented by NHS Health Board; • Deaths reported to Care Inspectorate - the number of deaths reported by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths.
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Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
12.08.2020	The neglect of adult social care during covid-19	BMJ / Editorial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment on the policy of discharging of untested patients to care homes and on the recent Public Accounts Committee report on adult social care.