



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 1st April 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 UK, evidence for area deprivation as a risk factor for deaths in care homes; from the UK, Spain and USA, further studies showing evidence of the efficacy and safety of Covid-19 vaccines in older people, including the potential to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2; and also from the USA, modelling of testing and vaccination strategies to reduce the impact of Covid-19 on nursing homes, and lessons for addressing misinformation to reduce Covid-19 vaccine hesitancy among care workers in skilled nursing facilities.

Finally, summaries of recently published reports, guidance and statistics. An ongoing series of PHE rapid reviews on a range of Covid-19 related research questions can be found at <https://phelibrary.koha-ptfs.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
08.02.2021	Is area deprivation associated with greater impacts of COVID-19 in care homes across England? A preliminary analysis of COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths	Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health / short report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted care homes and vulnerable populations, exacerbating existing health inequalities. However, the role of area deprivation in shaping the impacts of COVID-19 in care homes is poorly understood. We examine whether area deprivation is linked to higher rates of COVID-19 outbreaks and deaths among care home residents across upper tier local authorities in England (n=149).
25.03.2021	Immunogenicity of the BNT162b2 vaccine in frail or disabled Nursing Home residents: COVID-A Study	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / brief report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The safety and immunogenicity of the BNT162b2 COVID-19 vaccine in older adults with different frailty and disability profiles has not been well determined. Our objective was to analyze immunogenicity of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in older adults across frailty and disability profiles.
26.03.2021	Single dose of a mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine is associated with lower nasopharyngeal viral load among nursing home residents with asymptomatic COVID-19	Clinical Infectious Diseases / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In nursing home residents with asymptomatic COVID-19 diagnosed through twice-weekly surveillance testing, single dose BNT162b2 vaccination (Pfizer-BioNTech) was associated with -2.4 mean log₁₀ lower nasopharyngeal viral load than detected in absence of vaccination (p=0.004). Since viral load is linked to transmission, single dose mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccination may help control outbreaks.
29.03.2021	When Planning Meets Reality: COVID-19 Inter-pandemic Survey of Michigan Nursing Homes	American journal of Infection Control / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursing home (NH) populations have borne the brunt of morbidity and mortality of COVID-19. We surveyed Michigan NHs to evaluate preparedness, staffing, testing, and adaptations to these challenges.

Preprints

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26.03.2021	Vaccine effectiveness of the first dose of ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 and BNT162b2 against SARS-CoV-2 infection in residents of Long-Term Care Facilities (VIVALDI study)	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effectiveness of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in frail older adults living in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) is uncertain. • We estimated protective effects of the first dose of ChAdOx1 and BNT162b2 vaccines against infection in this population.
26.03.2021	Testing and Vaccination to Reduce the Impact of COVID-19 in Nursing Homes: An Agent-Based Approach	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to protect residents in nursing homes involve non-pharmaceutical interventions, testing, and vaccine. • We sought to quantify the effect of testing and vaccine strategies on the attack rate, length of the epidemic, and hospitalization.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
25.03.2021	Lessons learned from frontline skilled nursing facility staff regarding COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy	Berry, Sarah D.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hundred and ninety three staff from 50 facilities in the USA participated in 26 meetings between December 30, 2020 and January 15, 2021. Most staff reported getting information about the vaccine from friends or social media • Misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine was widespread among SNF staff. Sharing positive emotions and stories may be more effective than sharing data when attempting to reduce vaccine hesitancy in SNF staff.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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22.03.2021	Information leaflet for visiting nursing homes and other residential care facilities during COVID-19	Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance for visiting nursing homes and care facilities
23.03.2021	Admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19	PHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This note outlines the changes made to 'Admission and care of residents during COVID-19 incident in a care home', originally published on 2 April 2020.
24.03.2021	Written Statement: Care Homes Action Plan – final report	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third and final update statement
24.03.2021	Care homes action plan: final update	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out and summarises achievements against the high level actions of six themes encompassing work being undertaken with Welsh Government partners including Regional Partnership Boards who had identified specific support they would deliver to care homes in their areas This update covers both achievements against the plan and highlights ongoing and future work in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Infection prevention and control Personal protective equipment (PPE) General and clinical support for care homes Residents' well-being Social care workers' well-being Financial sustainability
29.03.2021	Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations to Prevent SARS-CoV-2 Spread in Nursing Homes	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older adults living in congregate settings are at high risk of being affected by respiratory and other pathogens, such as SARS-CoV-2. A strong infection prevention and control (IPC) program is critical to protect both residents and healthcare personnel (HCP).

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
23.03.2021	Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available. Includes the most up-to-date figures available for deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19).
24.03.2021	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.
30.03.2021	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.
30.03.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 26 March 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to improve the timely availability of data related to coronavirus (COVID-19) in adult care homes the Welsh Government and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) have agreed to publish 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 CIW. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
25.03.2021	The Rollout of COVID-19 Vaccines in Canadian Long-Term Care Homes, 19 th March 2021 update	Samir Sinha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In early November 2020, prior to the arrival of its first vaccines, Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the first stage of immunizations be given to residents, staff and family caregivers in Long-Term Care (LTC), retirement homes and other congregate settings for older persons, adults over 70, health-care workers, and adults in Indigenous communities.

