



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

23rd 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: further mounting international evidence on the immunogenicity and effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccines for older people in long term care facilities; from the UK, the latest findings from the ongoing Vivaldi 2 study, which infer that Covid-19 vaccines protect against the highly transmissible UK variant, and suggest that care home residents who are infected after having the vaccine may also be less likely to transmit the virus. Finally, summaries of 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 (which is available to PHE staff by raising a software request with IT) 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.kohaptfs.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
16.04.2021	Short-term impact of nursing home SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations on new infections, hospitalizations, and deaths	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the study was to compare rates of incident SARS-CoV-2 infection and 30-day hospitalization or death among residents with confirmed infection in nursing homes with earlier versus later SARS-CoV-2 vaccine clinics.

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
19.04.2021	Bereavement from COVID-19 and Depressive Symptoms among Older Adults in Europe	SocArXiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines data collected between June-August 2020 of 51,383 adults 50+ in 27 countries, of whom 1,363 reported the death of a relative or friend from COVID-19. COVID-19 bereavement is associated with significantly higher odds of reporting depressive symptoms, and reporting that these symptoms have recently worsened. Authors conclude that COVID-19 deaths have lingering mental health implications for surviving older adults.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
16.04.2021	Proportion of SARS-CoV-2 positive tests and Vaccination in VA Community Living Centers	James L. Rudolph et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 has caused significant morbidity and mortality in nursing homes. Vaccination against SARS-COV-2 holds promise for reduction in COVID-19. This operational analysis describes the proportion of SARS-COV-2 positive tests before, during, and after vaccination.

19.04.2021	Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Clinical Research in U.S. Nursing Homes	Charlene C. Quinn et al	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has revealed the extreme vulnerability of residents of more than 15,000 nursing homes. • Fewer than 1% of America’s population reside in nursing homes, but as reported by the COVID-19 Tracking Project “this tiny fraction of the country accounts for 35 % of U.S. COVID-19 deaths.” • Moreover, COVID-19 has disproportionately affected nursing homes with a higher proportion of Black and Hispanic residents.
19.04.2021	Vivaldi 2: coronavirus (COVID-19) care homes study report	Department of Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study provides a summary of antigen testing in all care homes for those over 65 years old in England and survey results of managers of those homes.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
16.04.2021	Approach to risk assessment of visits to private homes or similar setting by a resident from a long term residential care facility (LTRCF)	Irish Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the restrictions on visiting is with a view to reducing the risk of introduction of SARS-CoV-2 into the LTRCF. The profound consequences for residents of introduction of COVID-19 into a congregated LTRCF setting is clear from the experience this year to date. • However the situation has been changed greatly because of vaccination of residents and staff in LTRCFs. The incidence of severe disease and death has fallen to low levels and outbreaks have become much less common and with much less impact. In view of these changes, while caution is still required, revision of guidance related to visiting within and outside of LTRCF is appropriate.
20.04.2021	Interim Public Health, Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines on the Prevention and Management of COVID-19	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

	Cases and Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities		place to minimise the risk of harm to residents and staff if both other elements fail and the virus is introduced and spreads.
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Evidence Summaries

Publication Date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
15.04.2021	Spike Antibody Levels of Nursing Home Residents With or Without Prior COVID-19 3 Weeks After a Single BNT162b2 Vaccine Dose	Blain et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent studies have suggested that, to reach immunity, immunocompetent SARS-CoV-2 seropositive adults may only require 1 dose rather than 2 doses of a messenger RNA vaccine; however, these studies did not include older adults. Older adults living in nursing homes are at higher risk for severe COVID-19, and the immune response to the vaccine may differ from that of younger, healthier adults.
19.04.2021	Coronavirus: Adult social care key issues and sources	David Foster, Rachael Harker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section one of the briefing provides a high-level overview of policy in relation to adult social care since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in early 2020, including the development of key UK Government guidance. The remaining sections provide more detailed information on some key issues that have been raised during the course of the outbreak
15.04.2021	Evidence summary: emerging evidence on the protective effect of vaccines from COVID-19 infections among care home populations	Sian Smith, Maximilian Salcher-Konrad, Adelina Comas-Herrera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is emerging on the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in long-term care populations. This evidence summary looks at three recently published studies that assessed, not only protection from severe COVID-19 outcomes, but also to what extent the vaccines stop the virus spreading.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
20.04.2021	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).
20.04.2021	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
20.04.2021	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
15.04.2021	Surveillance data on COVID-19 among people who live in Long-Term Care Facilities (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC)	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECDC started collecting aggregate national surveillance data from European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) countries, regarding COVID-19 among people who live in long-term care facilities. As of 15 April, reports regarding long-term care facilities are available for nine countries (Cyprus, Denmark, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovenia and Spain).