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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

11th June 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.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
01.06.2021	The older population and the COVID-19 pandemic: The case of Croatia	Stanovništvo / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlike numerous European countries, Croatia introduced epidemiological measures during the first and second waves of the disease that were no more rigorous for the elderly living in their own homes than those for the general population. • At the same time, very strict measures were introduced for older residents living in nursing homes during both waves. • This paper aims to analyse the differences between the lifestyles of the elderly living in their own homes and those accommodated in nursing homes in the context of the epidemiological measures implemented, and to analyse the dominant narrative about the elderly during the COVID-19 pandemic in Croatia: only they have been singled out as a group vulnerable to severe symptoms and mortality. • This has resulted in the younger generations being unaware of the importance of adhering to stipulated epidemiological measures, with some of them assuming a selfish approach and resisting measures of physical distance and wearing masks • Being prevented from engaging in various forms of outdoor physical activity affects their overall physical health, while feelings of uncertainty, fear, and insecurity increase stress levels and negatively affect the mental health of the elderly
03.06.2021	Did the number of older adults with frailty increase during the COVID-19 pandemic? A prospective cohort study in Japan	European Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study was conducted between the baseline assessment from May 11 to July 10 in 2020, and the follow-up assessment from November 11, 2020, to January 10, 2021, in Japan. Survey forms were distributed among 1953 community-dwelling older adults. Frailty status was assessed using the Frailty Screening Index. • Findings of the study include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-frailty and frailty prevalences among Japanese community-dwelling, older adults were 55.0 and 7.9% at the baseline, and 57.3 and 11.8% at the follow-up respectively.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Frailty over the 6 months could be predicted by increasing age and multimorbidity during the COVID-19 pandemic.
03.06.2021	Effect of Bamlanivimab vs Placebo on Incidence of COVID-19 Among Residents and Staff of Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living Facilities	JAMA / Randomised Clinical Trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Randomized, double-blind, single-dose, phase 3 trial that enrolled residents and staff of 74 skilled nursing and assisted living facilities in the United States with at least 1 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 index case. A total of 1175 participants enrolled in the study from August 2 to November 20, 2020. • The primary outcome was incidence of COVID-19, defined as the detection of SARS-CoV-2 by reverse transcriptase–polymerase chain reaction and mild or worse disease severity within 21 days of detection, within 8 weeks of randomization. Key secondary outcomes included incidence of moderate or worse COVID-19 severity and incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection. • Authors conclude that among residents and staff in skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, treatment during August–November 2020 with bamlanivimab monotherapy reduced the incidence of COVID-19 infection.
05.06.2021	Early Multidrug Treatment of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (COVID-19) and Reduced Mortality Among Nursing Home Residents	Medical Hypotheses / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors identified nine reports of early treatment outcomes in COVID-19 nursing home patients. • Data from nine studies found hydroxychloroquine-based multidrug regimens were associated with a statistically significant >60% reduction in mortality. • Authors hypothesize that early outpatient ambulatory treatment, once initiated as soon as symptoms begin in high-risk positive persons, would significantly reduce hospitalizations and prevent deaths. Specifically, the provision of early multi-drug therapy with repurposed drugs will reduce hospitalization and death in elderly patients being cared for in long-term-care facilities.
06.06.2021	Mental Health, resilience, and religiosity in the elderly under COVID-19 quarantine in Qatar	Archives of Gerontology and Geriatrics / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This cross-sectional study aimed to examine the levels of perceived stress, depressive, and anxiety symptoms in older adults under COVID-19 quarantine in Qatar.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results show higher depressive, anxiety, and stress scores were associated with the female gender and with lower resilience scores in the quarantined group, but were not linked to age, psychiatric history, medical history, duration of quarantine, or religiosity. • Authors conclude that the elderly population does not seem to develop significant COVID-19 quarantine-related psychological distress, possibly thanks to high resilience and effective coping strategies developed through the years.
06.06.2021	Adverse Outcomes Associated with SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.351 Infection in Vaccinated Residents of a Long Term Care Home, Ontario, Canada	Clinical Infectious Diseases / Research Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors describe an outbreak due to the SARS-CoV-2 variant B.1.351 (501Y.V2) in a long term care home (LTCH) in Canada. In this home, 138 of 139 residents were fully vaccinated with BNT162b2, with doses received between January 9th and March 18th, 2021. • This outbreak confirms the observation of Bailly et al. that B.1.351 outbreaks associated with significant resident morbidity and mortality may occur in LTCHs with recent vaccination and high vaccination rates.
07.06.2021	Admissions of COVID-positive patients to US nursing homes with personal protective equipment or staffing shortages	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of the study was to assess how frequently nursing homes had shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) or staffing in weeks when they admitted COVID-positive patients, which likely made it more difficult to follow transmission-based precautions (TBP), and to compare facility characteristics by admissions practices. • Results included: Over the 40-week study period, 39% of US nursing homes admitted COVID-positive patients in at least 1 week in which they were experiencing PPE or staffing shortages.
07.06.2021	Emotional, social, and existential loneliness before and during the COVID-19 pandemic: Prevalence and risk factors among Dutch older adults	Journal of Gerontology: Series B / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data were obtained from the Longitudinal Aging Study Amsterdam, with observations of 404 community-dwelling older adults aged 74 to 96 years from 2019 and fall 2020. • The study reports that loneliness increased between 2019 and 2020, and the increase was particularly high for emotional loneliness (partial $\eta^2 = 0.19$). Having a partner, and a high mastery and good physical functioning before the pandemic provided some protection against an increase in loneliness.

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
07.06.2021	Factors associated with excess all-cause mortality in the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the UK: a time-series analysis using the Clinical Practice Research Datalink	MedRxiv / Preprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study aimed to describe how health and demographic factors have been associated with excess mortality during the pandemic • All-cause mortality increased by 43% (95% CI 40%-47%) during wave 1 compared with pre-pandemic. • The first UK COVID-19 wave appeared to amplify baseline mortality risk by a relatively constant factor for most population subgroups. However disproportionate increases in mortality were seen for those with dementia, learning disabilities, non-white ethnicity, or living in London.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
08.06.2021	Decreases in COVID-19 Cases, Emergency Department Visits, Hospital Admissions, and Deaths Among Older Adults Following the Introduction of COVID-19 Vaccine — United States, September 6, 2020–May 1, 2021	Christie, Athalia et al.; MMWR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By May 1, 2021, 82%, 63%, and 42% of adults aged ≥65, 50–64, and 18–49 years, respectively, had received ≥1 vaccine dose. From November 29–December 12, 2020 to April 18–May 1, 2021, the rate ratios of COVID-19 incidence, emergency department visits, hospital admissions, and deaths among adults aged ≥65 years (≥70 years for hospitalizations) to adults aged 18–49 years declined 40%, 59%, 65%, and 66%, respectively. • Report questions the implications for public health practice: The greater decline in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality in older adults, the age group with the highest vaccination rates, demonstrates the potential impact of increasing population-level vaccination coverage.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
08.06.2021	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.
08.06.2021	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

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
07.06.2021	COVID-19 Vaccination of Health Care Personnel as a Condition of Employment	Thomas R Talbot (JAMA /Viewpoint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argues that healthcare professionals should be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment, in order to minimise the risks of transmission to patients While noting that allowances should be made for workers who cannot be safely vaccinated against COVID-19, the author notes that alternative approaches such as additional PPE or regular testing may be appropriate in such cases This paper is focused primarily on the situation in the USA and therefore examines the legal and moral context from an American perspective.a