



UK Health Security Agency

Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

1st October 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 UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Covid-19 evidence digest (including Covid-19 evidence digests produced by Public Health England prior to October 2021), 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 UKHSA [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 Denmark, lessons from a large outbreak of COVID-19 in a residential care home; from Jamaica, insights and recommendations for supporting care givers of people living in the community with dementia; from Canada, reflections on factors leading to the high impact of COVID-19 on long term care homes and options for alternative models of care; from Turkey, further evidence of the adverse effects of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of older people in nursing homes; from Finland and Japan, evidence of the importance of both physical and mental wellbeing in maintaining quality of life and resilience of older people during the COVID-19 pandemic; and from Germany, further evidence of the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines in reducing the impact of infection in nursing home settings.

Finally, summaries of other recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
22.09.2021	Measuring positive caregiving experiences in caregivers of nursing home residents with dementia	Geriatrics & Gerontology International / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Kajiwara <i>et al</i> about measuring positive caregiving experiences in family caregivers of nursing home residents with dementia and their request for more detail on the associations of positive aspects of caregiving with characteristics of the care recipient and family caregiver.
23.09.2021	A major outbreak of COVID-19 at a residential care home	Danish Medical Journal / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a staff member had been tested positive on 16 November 2020, a bundle approach programme was initiated including frequent surveillance screenings of residents and staff, isolation and cohorting procedures. This approach also involved limiting the number of visitors and enhancing the use of personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, and environmental cleaning. • In all, 50% (56/114) of residents and 26% (49/190) of staff members became infected during the 46-day outbreak period. Altogether 16% of the infected residents died within 30 days after becoming infected. • The outbreak lineage was detected in the community 28 days before its introduction into the care home.
24.09.2021	The Experiences of Caregivers of Persons Living with Dementia in Jamaica during COVID-19	Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data were generated as part of a qualitative cross-national project to explore the costs and consequences of providing unpaid dementia care. Participants in Jamaica, who were recruited using community gatekeepers, information booths at health fairs, conferences, and other outreach events, were contacted by telephone to discuss their experiences of the pandemic. • Data showed that the pandemic has illustrated the direct costs, both financial and otherwise, that informal dementia carers bear in Jamaica. It also intensified pre-existing challenges faced by family carers.
24.09.2021	The promise of transformed long-term care homes: Evidence from the pandemic	Healthcare management forum / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of factors during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic led to a disproportionately high mortality rate among residents of long-term care homes in Canada and around the globe. Retrospectively, some of these factors could have been avoided or minimized.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this article, authors review traditional (ie institutional) long-term care practices that were associated with increased risk during the pandemic and highlight one transformational model (the Green House Project) that worked well to protect the lives and livelihood of people within congregate care settings.
25.09.2021	The effects of fear of COVID-19, loneliness, and resilience on the quality of life in older adults living in a nursing home	Geriatric Nursing / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study was designed as a descriptive and correlational study. The study population included 440 older adults residing in a nursing home affiliated with the Istanbul Directorate of Hospice between April 5, 2021 and May 20, 2021. Highlights from the study include: Age, gender, history of chronic disease, Mini Mental State Exam (MMSE) score, sleep pattern, fear of COVID-19, loneliness and resilience affect the QOL of the older adults living in nursing home during the COVID-19 pandemic.
27.09.2021	Maintenance of high quality of life as an indicator of resilience during COVID-19 social distancing among community-dwelling older adults in Finland	Quality of Life Research / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community-dwelling 75-, 80-, and 85-year-old persons ($n = 685$) were interviewed and examined in 2017–2018 and were followed up during COVID-19 social distancing in 2020. Better stress-coping ability (OR 1.21, 95% CI 1.14–1.28) and not being lonely (OR 2.67, 95% CI 1.48–4.63) increased the odds for constant high QoL from before to amid social distancing, and the odds did not differ according to the perceived restrictiveness of the social distancing recommendations. Authors conclude: During social distancing, psychosocial resources helped to maintain good QoL regardless how restrictive the social distancing recommendations were perceived to be.
27.09.2021	Change in subjective health status among frail older Japanese people owing to the coronavirus disease pandemic and characteristics of their responses	Geriatrics & Gerontology International / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During October 2019, 720 older adults participated in “The Otassha Study.” A year after the COVID-19 outbreak, between June 29 and July 31, 2020, a health status questionnaire, comprising questions concerning knowledge about infection, behaviors and psychological responses during the pandemic, was sent to all participants of the health examination in 2019. Although the self-reported health status of the older adults in both groups was worse in 2020 than in 2019, differences were not observed in the degree of deterioration between the groups. Those in the frail group had fewer

			resources of information related to COVID-19 and had fewer coping behaviors for health maintenance compared with the robust group.
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Preprints

Publication Date	Title / URL	Preprint Source	Digest
23.09.2021	Two doses of the mRNA BNT162b2 vaccine reduce severe outcomes, viral load and secondary attack rate: evidence from a SARS-CoV-2 Alpha outbreak in a nursing home in Germany, January-March 2021	medRxiv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a retrospective cohort study, we estimated an age-adjusted vaccine effectiveness of 88% [95% confidence interval (95%CI) 41-98%] against hospitalization/death. Ct values at diagnosis were higher with longer intervals since the second vaccination [>21 vs. ≤21 days: 4.82 cycles, 95%CI: 0.06-9.58]. Vaccination reduced the risk of severe outcomes, Ct values and transmission, but not fully.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
24.09.2021 Updated	Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for adult social care settings	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the COVID-19 testing available for testing staff, residents and visitors for all adult social care settings. Updated to reflect changes to policy when there is one case of COVID-19 in a care home, rapid lateral flow testing frequency, changes to policy when there are 2 or more cases of COVID-19 in a care home and changes to ending outbreak restrictions, when they can be lifted and ongoing testing after this period.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
28.09.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	ONS, CQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority. Published by the Office for National Statistics and Care Quality Commission.
28.09.2021	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 coronavirus (COVID-19), in the latest weeks for which data are available.
28.09.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 22 September 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report provides 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 Care Inspectorate Wales. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.
29.09.2021	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.