



# UK Health Security Agency

## Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### 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.

The digest this week includes; from Poland, further evidence of the detrimental impact of safeguarding measures during the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of residents in long-term care facilities; from Japan, further evidence of a lower serological response to Covid-19 vaccination in older residents of long-term care facilities compared to health care workers; from the Republic of Ireland, evidence of the inter-relationship of prior infection, age and frailty with antibody response to COVID-19 vaccination after six months; from Switzerland, further evidence of higher measures of loneliness in older residents of long-term care facilities compared with previous studies of older people living in the community; from the USA, a modelling study exploring options for de-escalating asymptomatic testing for nursing home staff as, staff and community, levels of COVID-19 vaccination increase.

From the UK, a call highlighting the rights of residents in care settings and for ending isolation in care during outbreaks.

Finally, summaries of other recently published COVID-19 pandemic reports, guidance and statistics.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
03.01.2022	<a href="#">Assessment of the Risk of Depression in Residents Staying at Long-Term Care Institutions in Poland During the COVID-19 Pandemic Depending on the Quality of Cognitive Functioning</a>	Frontiers in Psychology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures to safeguard against further increases in illness in the COVID-19 pandemic have unfortunately, reduced contact with families, increasing feelings of loneliness and isolation. This is particularly difficult in long-term care facilities, where the risk of developing depression is higher than in the general population. This study assessed the risk of depression among the residents of long-term care institutions in Poland during the pandemic and aims to determine the relationship between the risk of depression and the occurrence of cognitive impairment in the study group.</li> <li>• The study included 273 residents from long-term care institutions in Poland. The risk of depression was determined based on an originally designed questionnaire. Both the depression risk assessment and the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) test were conducted twice: in March and December 2020.</li> <li>• In March, severe dementia was present in 28.2% of the residents and normal MMSE scores were observed in 16.1% of the subjects; in December, the prevalence of severe dementia increased to 31.1% and that of normal scores decreased to 10.3%. In March, no participant was found to be at high risk of depression and moderate risk was observed in 14.3% of the subjects; in December, 2.6% of the residents had a high risk score and 45.4% had a moderate risk score. Statistical analysis revealed that higher MMSE scores correspond with a higher risk of depression.</li> <li>• A higher risk of depression was observed with the development of the pandemic. Residents with cognitive impairment were characterised by a lower risk of depression compared to individuals with normal MMSE scores.</li> <li>• During the study, progression of cognitive impairment was observed in the residents.</li> </ul>

10.01.2022	Antibody response to BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine in healthcare workers and residents in a long-term care facility	Geriatrics & Gerontology International / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We compared the serological response induced by two doses of the mRNA vaccine, BNT162b2, between LTCF residents and healthcare workers (HCWs).</li> <li>Four groups were compared: group 1: HCWs aged ≤64 years; group 2: HCWs aged between 65 and 84 years; group 3: LTCF residents aged between 65 and 84 years; and group 4: LTCF residents aged ≥85 years</li> <li>The present study found that serological response to two doses of the mRNA vaccine, BNT162b2, in LTCF residents was significantly lower than those in HCWs aged between 65 and 84 years, as well as in HCWs aged &lt;64 years.</li> <li>In addition, the present study showed that the serological response of older HCWs did not show any significant difference compared with that of younger HCWs, in accordance with previous studies that examined the response to the vaccination among older adults.</li> </ul>
10.01.2022	Previous SARS-CoV-2 Infection, Age, and Frailty Are Associated With 6-Month Vaccine-Induced Anti-Spike Antibody Titer in Nursing Home Residents	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participants of this longitudinal cohort study were residents from 5 nursing homes assessed before vaccination, and 5 weeks and 6 months post vaccination, with the BNT162b2 messenger RNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.</li> <li>Comprehensive clinical assessment was performed, including assessment for comorbidity, frailty, and SARS-CoV-2 infection history. Serum nucleocapsid and anti-spike receptor binding domain (RBD) antibodies were analyzed at all timepoints.</li> <li>Of 86 participants (81.1 ± 10.8 years; 65% female), just under half (45.4%; 39 of 86) had evidence of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection. All participants demonstrated a significant antibody response to vaccination at 5 weeks and a significant decline in this response by 6 months.</li> </ul>
07.10.2022	Retrospective feelings of loneliness during the COVID-19 pandemic among residents of long-term care facilities	Aging and Health Research / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The retrospective loneliness scores of the residents living in LTCFs were found to exceed those reported in other studies focusing on community-dwelling older people. Multivariate regression analyses showed that females, individuals with lower values of joy in life and life satisfaction, and individuals who were not satisfied with the manner in which their care home coped with the COVID-19 measures significantly felt lonelier</li> </ul>

## Preprints

Publication Date	Title / URL	Preprint Source	Digest
06.01.2022	<a href="#">De-Escalation of Asymptomatic Testing and Potential of Future COVID-19 Outbreaks in U.S. Nursing Homes Amidst Rising Community Vaccination Coverage: A Modeling Study</a>	SSRN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study investigates role of vaccination in controlling future COVID-19 outbreaks. Authors developed examined SARS-CoV-2 transmission in a 100-bed nursing home with a staff of 99 healthcare personnel (HCP) in a community of 20,000 people.</li> <li>• Expected resident cases decreased as community vaccination increased, with large reductions at high HCP coverage. The probability of a COVID-19 outbreak was lower as well: at HCP vaccination coverage of 60%, probability of an outbreak was below 20% for community coverage of 50% or above.</li> <li>• At high coverage, stopping asymptomatic screening and outbreak testing yielded similar results.</li> <li>• Results suggest that high coverage among HCP and in the community can prevent infections in residents.</li> <li>• When vaccination is high in nursing homes and their surrounding communities, asymptomatic staff screening and facility-wide outbreak testing may be less necessary for preventing spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• High adherence to PPE may increase the likelihood of containing future COVID-19 outbreaks if they occur.</li> </ul>

## Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
11.01.2022	<a href="#">COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients and residents in health and social care settings</a>	UKHSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on the management of staff, patients and residents who have been exposed to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

12.01.2022	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing in adult care homes</a>	UKHSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to access test kits and step-by-step guides on how to use PCR and rapid lateral flow test kits for regular and outbreak testing of residents, staff and visiting professionals.</li> </ul>
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## Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
11.01.2022	<a href="#">Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 5 January 2022</a>	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
11.01.2022	<a href="#">Care home resident deaths registered in England and Wales, provisional</a>	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
11.01.2022	<a href="#">Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England</a>	ONS / CQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
12.01.2022	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data</a>	Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland.</li> </ul>

## Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
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<p><b>05.01.2022</b></p>	<p>Rights for Residents, along with a coalition of organisations, call for an end to isolation in care</p>	<p>Rights For Residents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights for Residents, along with a coalition of organisations, have written to local health and care leaders across England to promote the rights of people living in care settings and to highlight the importance of care users being able to access continued support from loved ones during outbreaks or lockdowns.</li> </ul>
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