



# UK Health Security Agency

## Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

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

4<sup>th</sup> February 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 the Netherlands, an evaluation of how a serial SARS-CoV-2 national testing policy was implemented in Dutch nursing homes; from Belgium, a study describing the crucial value of surveillance for COVID-19 in nursing homes in mapping the impact of the pandemic and guiding public health interventions in these vulnerable settings; from Spain, a prospective cohort study in nursing homes with further evidence of a strong immunological response to COVID-19 vaccination; from USA, evidence of an association of higher death rates in nursing homes in areas of higher prevalence of COVID-19 with lower uptake of COVID-19 vaccine by staff; and further evidence of the adverse impact of visiting restrictions on nursing home residents and their family caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic; from Israel, a retrospective cohort study of outcomes for severely frail older adults with asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection admitted to designated COVID-19 units in skilled nursing homes.

From the UK, a briefing providing an overview of key issues for the adult social sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
26.01.2022	<a href="#">Implementation of a national testing policy in Dutch nursing homes during SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks</a>	Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We conducted a mixed-method study of nursing homes in the Netherlands with a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak after 15 September 2020.</li> <li>104 nursing homes (89%) tested residents regardless of their symptoms during the outbreak, and 85 nursing homes (73%) tested the staff regardless of their symptoms.</li> <li>Barriers to serial testing regardless of symptoms were lack of knowledge of local leaders with decisional making authority, lack of a cohort ward or skilled staff, and insufficient collaboration with laboratories or local public health services. Important facilitators to serial testing were staff willingness to undergo testing and the availability of PCR tests.</li> </ul>
27.01.2022	<a href="#">Nursing Home Staff Vaccination and Covid-19 Outcomes</a>	New England Journal of Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We compared outcomes between facilities with low (lowest quartile) and high (highest quartile) staff vaccination coverage, grouped according to quartiles of county-level prevalence of Covid-19 during the time of the study.</li> <li>In the presence of high community prevalence of Covid-19, nursing homes with low staff vaccination coverage had higher numbers of cases and deaths than those with high staff vaccination coverage.</li> </ul>
29.01.2022	<a href="#">COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in Belgian nursing homes: results of a surveillance conducted between April and December 2020</a>	Archives of Public Health / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A COVID-19 surveillance in all Belgian NHs (n = 1542) was set up by the regional health authorities and Sciensano. Aggregated data on possible/confirmed COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations and case-based data on deaths were reported by NHs at least once a week</li> <li>This surveillance was crucial in mapping COVID-19 in this vulnerable setting and guiding public health interventions, despite limitations of aggregated data and necessary changes in protocol over time.</li> </ul>
31.01.2022	<a href="#">Frail Older Adults with Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection: Clinical Course and Prognosis</a>	Gerontology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A retrospective cohort study was conducted in 6 designated COVID-19 units, in skilled nursing homes. Subjects were severely frail older adults, positive for SARS-CoV-2, and asymptomatic at the time of their admission in these units.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The primary outcome was a composite of death or hospitalization by day 40.</li> <li>• Six hundred forty-one (75.5%) residents were discharged after considered cured from COVID-19, 125 (14.7%) were hospitalized, and 82 (9.7%) died in the facilities.</li> <li>• In this large cohort, we report care and prognosis of asymptomatic older adults with major functional or cognitive impairments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most presymptomatic patients do not develop severe infection, and age stays a predominant risk factor, even in the frailest older adults.</li> </ul>
01.02.2022	“They Just Took Him Out of My Life”: Nursing Home Care Partner Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Journal of Gerontological Nursing / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The current study describes the impact of visitation restrictions on nursing home residents and their family caregivers from caregivers' perspectives during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.</li> <li>• All caregivers were of the opinion that residents with dementia declined during lockdown and that they and their residents experienced irreparable harm from the prolonged separation.</li> <li>• Protecting residents from a deadly disease is important, but long-term separation from family caregivers cannot be condoned again.</li> </ul>
01.02.2022	Immunological response against SARS-CoV-2 following full-dose administration of Comirnaty® COVID-19 vaccine in nursing home residents	Clinical Microbiology and Infection / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A prospective cohort study in a representative sample from nursing homes in Valencia (n = 881; males: 271, females 610; median age, 86 years) recruited residents using a random one-stage cluster sampling approach.</li> <li>• The SARS-CoV-2-S antibody detection rate in nursing home residents was 99.6% (283/284) and 98.3% (587/597) for SARS-CoV-2 recovered and naïve residents, respectively, within a median of 99 days (range 17–125 days) after full vaccination. Three out of five residents lacking SARS-CoV-2-S antibodies had detectable S-reactive CD8+ and/or CD4+ T cells.</li> </ul>

## Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
28.01.2022	<a href="#">Coronavirus: Adult social care key issues and sources</a>	House of Commons Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This briefing provides an overview of key issues facing the adult social care sector during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and provides links to some of the key official guidance for the sector.</li> </ul>

## Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
27.01.2022 Updated	<a href="#">COVID-19 - information and guidance for care home settings (adults and older people)</a>	Public Health Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This guidance is to support those working in care home settings to give advice to their staff and users of their services about COVID-19. It should be used for care homes for adults and older people, that is, all care homes registered with the Care Inspectorate, excluding those for children and young people.</li> </ul>
28.01.2022 Updated	<a href="#">Visits to care homes: guidance for providers</a>	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on how to enable safe visiting during the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> </ul>
31.01.2022 Updated	<a href="#">Visiting arrangements in care homes</a>	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out how care homes can support families and visitors to visit residents.</li> </ul>
31.01.2022 Updated	<a href="#">COVID-19: Normalising Access in Long Term Residential Care Facilities (LTRCFs)</a>	Health Protection Surveillance Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This guide is intended to support nursing homes and other LTRCFs to</li> <li>restore the right to visiting as completely and quickly as is practically possible in the context of the</li> <li>assessed level of risk at the time. The measures recommended will also reduce the risk of</li> <li>introduction and spread of other viral infections including influenza.</li> </ul>

**Statistics**

<b>Publication date</b>	<b>Title / URL</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Digest</b>
<b>01.02.2022</b>	<a href="#">Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes</a>	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notifications related to COVID-19 in adult care homes during the coronavirus pandemic for 26 January 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>01.02.2022</b>	<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>
<b>01.02.2022</b>	<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>
<b>02.02.2022</b>	<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>