



# 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> March 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.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
23.02.2022	<a href="#">Nurses' Experiences of Caring for Long-Term Care Residents With Dementia During the COVID-19 Pandemic</a>	Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nine Maltese nurses working in dementia care units were interviewed during the month of February 2021. Following analysis of the transcripts, three themes were identified; 'living the challenges of the pandemic', 'passing through a roller coaster of emotions' and 'building on personal and organisational resilience'.</li> <li>• Moving forward through this period mostly relied on their coping strategies, how they negotiated infection control measures with the residents' quality of life and how their organisation was able to provide quality dementia care pre-COVID-19.</li> </ul>
24.02.2022	<a href="#">Cross-sectional study of SARS-CoV-2 seropositivity among health-care workers and residents of long-term facilities in Italy, January 2021</a>	Journal of medical Virology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subjects were recruited in January 2021 among unvaccinated HCWs of LTCFs and hospitals and residents of LTCFs in Northern Italy.</li> <li>• HCWs were associated with significant odds for seroreversion over time (OR 0.926 for every 30 days, 95% CI 0.860 - 0.998), contrary to residents (OR 1.059, 95% CI 0.919 - 1.22).</li> <li>• Authors conclude: Residents could have a higher probability of maintaining a seropositive status over time compared to HCWs.</li> </ul>
28.02.2022	<a href="#">Quantifying Risk for SARS-CoV-2 Infection among Nursing Home Workers For 2020/2021 Winter Surge of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Georgia, U.S.A</a>	Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among 203 eligible staff, 72 (35.5%) had evidence of interval infection. In multivariable analysis among unvaccinated staff, staff SARS-Cov-2 infection induced seroconversion was significantly higher among nurses and certified nursing assistants accounting for race and interval infection incidence in both the community and facility (aOR 5.3, 95% CI 1.0-28.4)</li> <li>• These results suggest that mitigation strategies, prior to vaccination did not eliminate occupational risk for infection and emphasize critical need to maximize vaccine utilization to eliminate excess risk among front line providers.</li> </ul>

## Preprints

Publication Date	Title / URL	Preprint Source	Digest
25.02.2022	<a href="#">Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in air and on surfaces in rooms of infected nursing home residents</a>	MedRxiv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During outbreaks, air samples were collected using three different active and one passive air sampling technique in rooms of infected patients. Oropharyngeal swabs (OPS) of the residents and dry surface swabs were collected.</li> <li>• In rooms of 10 residents with detected SARS-CoV-2 RNA in OPS, SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in 93 of 184 collected environmental samples (50.5%) (lowest Ct 29,5), substantially more than in the rooms of residents with negative OPS on the day of environmental sampling (n=2) (3.6%).</li> <li>• In conclusion, SARS-CoV-2 is frequently detected in air and on surfaces in the immediate surroundings of room-isolated COVID-19 patients, providing evidence of environmental contamination.</li> </ul>

## Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 24.02.2022	<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>
Updated 24.02.2022	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes</a>	DHSC, CQC, UKHSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to protect care home residents and staff during the coronavirus outbreak.</li> </ul>
Updated 24.02.2022	<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>

Updated <b>25.02.2022</b>	<a href="#">Coronavirus (COVID-19): testing in adult care homes</a>	UKHSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on regular asymptomatic testing for staff, residents and visiting professionals in adult care homes.</li> </ul>
Updated <b>01.03.2022</b>	<a href="#">COVID-19 vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance</a>	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anyone working or volunteering in a care home needs to be fully vaccinated against coronavirus (COVID-19), unless they are exempt.</li> </ul>

## Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
<b>01.03.2022</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>01.03.2022</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>01.03.2022</b>	<a href="#">Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes (headline data): 23 February 2022</a>	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notifications related to COVID-19 in adult care homes during the coronavirus pandemic for 23 February 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>01.03.2022</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>