



Public Health
England

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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
12th November 2020

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.

This week's digest includes: from the USA, further evidence of community-level determinants of COVID-19 transmission in nursing homes; and evidence for frequent testing and immunity based staffing to mitigate outbreaks of COVID-19. From the UK, reflections on building capacity to undertake research in care homes.

Finally, summaries of recently published reports, guidance and statistics, including recommendations from Age UK for the better recognition and protection of care workers following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
03.11.2020	Infection Prevention and Control Practices in the Home Environment: Examining Enablers and Barriers to Adherence among Home Health Care Nurses	Am. J. of Infection Control / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examines impact of individual, home environment, & organizational factors on infection control practices among home carers Identifies multiple barriers to infection control, including clutter, dirty home environments, and lack of suitable PPE
04.11.2020	Experiences of geriatric nurses in nursing home settings across four countries in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic	J. of Advanced Nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study explores psychological impact of COVID-19 on nurses working in care homes in Spain, Italy, Peru, and Mexico, based on interviews conducted during April 2020 The most common impacts were fear and emotional exhaustion. The study concludes that a flexible, multi-layered framework to support geriatric nurses is vital for carehomes worldwide in order to maintain the quality of care staff can provide during times of extreme stress.
09.11.2020	The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on people with Mild Cognitive Impairment / Dementia and on their caregivers	Int. J. of Geriatric Psychology / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyses impact of COVID-19 pandemic on both Greek adults with Impairment Disorder or Dementia, and on their caregivers, during the period February – March 2020 Identifies significant cognitive decline in patients and a higher psychological burden on caregivers during this timeperiod, when Greece was in lockdown
09.11.2020	Building relational research capacity in care homes in the COVID-19 era: applying recognition theory to the research agenda	Quality in Ageing & Older Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper aims to present a case for how a relational research capacity building programme could raise care home standards, which it argues is particularly important in the context of the ongoing pandemic Paper concludes that a lack of relevant research may have contributed to the crisis experienced by the care home sector early in the pandemic, but that by building research capacity within the sector, better evidence will be generated to inform practice.
10.11.2020	Mapping community-level determinants of COVID-19 transmission in nursing homes: A multi-scale approach	Science of the Total Environment / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study aims to identify association between care home-level metrics and county-level, place-based variables with COVID-19 confirmed cases in nursing homes across the USA

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results highlight the need to include other community-level variables when considering risk of COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks in nursing homes
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Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
03.11.2020	Necessity is the mother of invention': Specialist palliative care service innovation and practice change in response to COVID-19. Results from a multi-national survey (CovPall)	MedRxiv / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preprint report on survey of palliative care, including home and inpatient palliative care, across the UK, Europe, and wider world, which aims to understand service responses to COVID-19 and help share good practice and prepare for future care
06.11.2020	Temporal Variations in the Intensity of Care Provided to Community and Nursing Home Residents Who Died of COVID-19 in Ontario, Canada	MedRxiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures temporal variations in hospitalizations among community / nursing home residents with COVID-19 during first and second waves of pandemic in Canada Findings suggest that low hospitalisation rate of care home residents during peak of Canadian first wave may have contributed to the high concentration of COVID-19 mortality in nursing homes in Ontario.
09.11.2020	Risk factors for mortality of residents in nursing homes with Covid-19: a retrospective cohort study	MedRxiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores role of structural factors of nursing home facilities environs to all-cause and Covid-19-related deaths during a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak Concludes multiple risk factors include presence of residents with complex diseases and care home locations in areas with high incidence of Covid-19
11.11.2020	Frequent testing and immunity-based staffing will help mitigate outbreaks in nursing home settings	MedRxiv / Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeks to evaluate the reduction in transmission in nursing homes achieved through contact-targeted interventions and testing and to evaluate the effectiveness of both rapid antigen testing and PCR testing, with tests conducted with varying frequency Concludes higher test frequencies have potential to reduce transmission and possible harms to residents

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
02.11.2020	Behind the Headlines: Time to bring our Care Workers in from the Cold	Age UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts the case that the UK's 1.65 million care workers have seen far less support than NHS staff to cope with the pandemic, and that action must be taken to ensure they are both adequately protected and recognised • Reviews experiences of frontline care workers, the challenges they are facing, and provides recommendations to secure better protection and recognition for the workforce
04.11.2020	The Fears of Being Infected by the COVID-19 Virus in Canada: A Look At Germophobes, Crowd-Averse, Fearless and Other Population Segments	Mata, F.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study examines COVID-19 virus infection fears among adult Canadians during the confinement period of June 21-26 2020. A major perceived health risk (held by 24% of respondents) was visiting nursing homes • The paper offers some segmentation and analysis of the different fears reported by respondents, and suggests deeper behavioural research would be useful in the development of more targeted public health messaging
05.11.2020	Attitudes and Experiences of Frontline Nursing Home Staff Towards Coronavirus Testing	Hofschulter-Beck, S.L.; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports on surveyed attitude of Nursing Home staff in Indiana following a COVID-19 testing program in June 2020. • Survey sought to identify both attitude to and experience of testing protocols, and staff attitudes to the importance or value of regular testing for nursing home staff
10.11.2020	A National Covid-19 Resilience Program: Improving the health and wellbeing of older people during the pandemic	The Physiological Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad-brush examination of the impact of COVID-19 and associated restrictions including lockdown and shielding on the health and wellbeing of older people in the UK, and their likely need for support whether in residential care or not. • The report examines risk factors and challenges to recovery, and argues that a “national COVID-19 recovery program” is

			needed to support older people in preparing for, and keeping healthy over the winter.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 03.11.2020	Infection Prevention and Control in Care Homes	Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set of questions and prompts used by the CQC to check how staff and residents of care homes are protected by infection prevention and control, including checks for COVID-19 mitigation
05.11.2020	Visiting arrangements in care homes for the period of national restrictions	DHSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance sets out measures that can be put in place to provide COVID-secure opportunities for families to meet using visiting arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits This guidance applies for the period of the national restrictions in England beginning 5 November 2020.
Updated 10.11.2020	Visits to care homes: guidance for providers	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated Guidance on care home visiting following the end of the Welsh Firebreak period

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 10.11.2020	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	Office for National Statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly updated provisional counts of deaths caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority

<p>Updated 10.11.2020</p>	<p>Notifications of deaths of residents related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March to 6 November 2020</p>	<p>Welsh Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The data presented here are based on the Notifications of Service User Deaths received by Care Inspectorate Wales from adult care homes which relate to their residents. The location of death may be in the care home, in hospital or another location.
<p>Updated 11.11.2020</p>	<p>Coronavirus (COVID-19): adult care homes - additional data</p>	<p>Scottish Government</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly data on COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland up to 8 November including: Testing for COVID-19 in adult care homes in Scotland split by care homes with confirmed Covid-19 and without confirmed Covid-19, presented by NHS Health Board; Deaths reported to Care Inspectorate - the number of deaths reported by adult care homes, including COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 related deaths.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
<p>05.11.2020</p>	<p>Time for an Upgrade in the Nursing Home Survey Process: A Position Statement From the Society of Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine</p>	<p>Nazir, A.; et al.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following an inspection of the Life Care Center nursing home in Kirkland, Wash., USA, which identified three “immediate jeopardy” deficiencies in the wake of their first COVID-19 diagnosis, this editorial addresses how the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service survey nursing homes in the USA.