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Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings
25th February 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 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.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
16.02.2021	Opportunities for the advanced practice nurse in improving the wellbeing of older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic	Geriatric Nursing / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The prevalence of stress, anxiety, and depression have increased during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic across age groups. • Older adults may additionally be experiencing accelerated cognitive decline and increased behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia related to the pandemic and associated isolation precautions. • The advanced practice nurse has an opportunity to holistically intervene to mitigate the negative effects of isolation and promote older adults' wellbeing during challenging times.
17.02.2021	Effects of subjective successful aging on emotional and coping responses to the COVID-19 pandemic	BMC Geriatrics / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle-aged and older adults are more vulnerable to hospitalization and mortality if they are infected with the COVID-19 virus. • This study investigates the longitudinal effects of subjective successful aging on middle-aged and older adults' emotional and coping responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and explores an underlying mechanism through perceived time limitation during the pandemic.
18.02.2021	Stringent thresholds in SARS-CoV-2 IgG assays lead to under-detection of mild infections	BMC Infectious Diseases / research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thresholds for SARS-CoV-2 antibody assays have typically been determined using samples from symptomatic, often hospitalised, patients. • In this setting the sensitivity and specificity of the best performing assays can both exceed 98%. • Antibody assay performance following mild infection is less clear.
22.02.2021	Impact of the Influenza Vaccine on COVID-19 Infection Rates and Severity	American journal of Infection Control / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With vaccines against COVID-19 not yet broadly available, there is interest in assessing the role of the influenza vaccine in COVID-19 susceptibility and severity. • The odds of testing positive for COVID-19 was reduced in patients who received an influenza vaccine compared to those who did not by 24%. • Vaccinated patients testing positive for COVID-19 were less likely to require hospitalization or mechanical ventilation and had a shorter hospital length of stay.

<p>22.02.2021</p>	<p>High impact of COVID-19 outbreak in a nursing home in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, France, March to April 2020</p>	<p>BMC Infectious Diseases / study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elderly people in nursing homes are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to their age, the presence of comorbidities, and community living. • On March 14, 2020, at the beginning of the first epidemic wave of COVID-19 in France, a cluster was reported in a nursing home in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. • The outbreak was monitored as well as the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures implemented.
<p>22.02.2021</p>	<p>Increase in frailty in nursing home survivors of COVID-19: comparison with non-infected residents</p>	<p>Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / comparison</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalized older adults have a high prevalence of frailty and disability, which may make them more vulnerable to the negative consequences of COVID-19. • The study investigated the impact of COVID-19 on the level of frailty, physical and cognitive performance in nursing home residents.
<p>22.02.2021</p>	<p>Assessment of COVID-19 Infection and Mortality Rates Among Nursing Homes with Different Proportions of Black Residents</p>	<p>Journal of the American Medical Directors Association / study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted nursing homes (NHs) with large shares of Black residents. • The study examined the associations between the proportion of Black residents in NHs and COVID-19 infections and deaths, accounting for structural bias (operationalized as county-level factors) and stratifying by urbanicity/rurality.
<p>22.02.2021</p>	<p>A Mobile Unit Overcomes the Challenges to Monoclonal Antibody Infusion for COVID-19 in Skilled Care Facilities</p>	<p>Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities are at increased risk for severe coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) but may not be able to access monoclonal antibody therapies offered at outpatient infusion centers due to frailty and logistical issues. • This report describes a mobile monoclonal antibody infusion program for patients with COVID-19 in skilled nursing facilities and provide descriptive data on its outcomes.
<p>22.02.2021</p>	<p>Frailty and comorbidity in predicting community COVID-19 mortality in the UK Biobank: the effect of sampling</p>	<p>Journal of the American Geriatrics Society / investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frailty has been linked to increased risk of COVID-19 mortality, but evidence is mainly limited to hospitalized older individuals. • This study aimed to assess and compare predictive abilities of different frailty and comorbidity measures for COVID-19 mortality in a community sample and COVID-19 inpatients.

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
17.02.2021	The Relationship between Ownership of Nursing Homes and their Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: a Systematic Review	International Long-Term Care Policy Network / review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nursing home sector has been disproportionately affected by the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and pandemic. Nursing home residents are particularly vulnerable to the virus, resulting in a high number of outbreaks and deaths. Organisational characteristics to some extent may mediate the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of this literature review is to evaluate the relationship between ownership structure of nursing homes and their performance during the COVID-19 crisis.

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
Updated 22.02.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19) lateral flow testing of visitors in care homes	Department of Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out how care homes and visitors can prepare for visitor testing with lateral flow devices (LFDs).

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
23.02.2021	Deaths registered weekly in England and Wales, provisional	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are

			available. Includes the most up-to-date figures available for deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19).
23.02.2021	Number of deaths in care homes notified to the Care Quality Commission, England	Office for National Statistics, Care Quality Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provisional counts of deaths in care homes caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) by local authority.
24.02.2021	Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections in the community in England	ONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristics of people testing positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England taken from the COVID-19 Infection Survey.
24.02.2021	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
17.02.2021	Loneliness is a serious risk in COVID-19 lockdown	Anu Jansson & Kaisu Pitkälä	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loneliness can have both short- and long-term negative effects on older people's cognition, health, functioning, quality of life, and even mortality. Even before COVID-19, older people's loneliness in LCTF was surprisingly common. During COVID-19, new technology has been identified as a tool for enhancing contacts between older people and their closest ones. Prior to COVID-19, group interventions have shown promising results in alleviating loneliness in LCTF.
18.02.2021	An overview of union, government, and employer actions worldwide to improve	Mary Catharine Breadner and Adrian Durtschi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage, emerging and re-emerging around the globe, we see the disastrous outcomes of a poorly funded long-term care sector (LTC) in virtually every country. Older adults are the most susceptible to COVID-19, and this pandemic is a clear call for immediate action to protect older people, improve our

	conditions in the Long-Term Care sector during COVID-19		LTC systems, and address the systemic problems which have led to higher levels of deaths in nursing homes.
20.02.2021	Care home residents to be allowed one visitor as part of cautious easing of lockdown	Department of Health and Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every resident will be allowed one regular indoor visitor from 8 March. • Visitors to be allowed to hold hands, with tests required before entry and PPE to be worn on site
22.02.2021	The Rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in Canadian Long-Term Care homes, 22nd February update	Samir Sinha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In early November 2020, prior to the arrival of its first vaccines, Canada’s National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended that the first stage of immunizations be given to residents, staff and family caregivers in Long-Term Care (LTC), Retirement homes and other congregate settings for older persons, adults over 70, health-care workers, and adults in Indigenous communities. • NACI reaffirmed this in its subsequent COVID-19 vaccination prioritization guidelines initially released in December 2020 and then updated in February 2020