



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

Weekly Care Homes Evidence Digest

Prevention and control of COVID-19 in home care/care homes settings 12th March 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.

This week's digest includes: from the USA, evidence of the potential for fomite-mediated transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in care homes and other settings; from Denmark, evidence of the effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccination in long term care facilities. From the UK, two studies showing the protective effect of antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 in reducing re-infection in care homes; and a local survey from Liverpool exploring the factors influencing vaccine hesitancy in care home staff . Finally, summaries of recently published reports, guidance and statistics.

An ongoing series of PHE rapid reviews on a range of Covid-19 related research questions can be found at <https://phelibrary.kohapfts.co.uk/covid19rapidreviews/>.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
04.02.2021	Antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 protect against re-infection during outbreaks in care homes, September and October 2020	Eurosurveillance / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In autumn 2020, two care homes in London, United Kingdom (UK) with high rates of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) seropositivity following outbreaks in the first wave of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic experienced a second COVID-19 outbreak. • Outbreak investigations and SARS-CoV-2 serology were repeated to assess the role of antibodies in protecting against SARS-CoV-2 re-infection.
24.02.2021	Risk for Fomite-Mediated Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Child Daycares, Schools, Nursing Homes, and Offices	CDC / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 can persist on surfaces, suggesting possible surface-mediated transmission of this pathogen. • The study found that fomites might be a substantial source of transmission risk, particularly in schools and child daycares. • Combining surface cleaning and decontamination with mask wearing can help mitigate this risk.

Preprints

Publication date	Title / URL	Journal / Article type	Digest
07.03.2021	COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in care home staff: a survey of Liverpool care homes	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 has caused high morbidity and mortality in UK care homes. • Vaccinating staff members and residents will protect care homes from severe clinical cases. • Uptake of COVID-19 vaccine first doses in care homes has been higher among residents compared to staff members.
08.03.2021	Incidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection according to baseline antibody status in staff and	medRxiv / study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background SARS-CoV-2 infection represents a major challenge for Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) and many residents and staff are now sero-positive following persistent outbreaks.

	residents of 100 Long Term Care Facilities (VIVALDI study)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study investigated the relationship between the presence of SARS-CoV-2 specific antibodies and subsequent infection in this population.
08.03.2021	Imagining Personally-Relevant Outcomes Influences Perceived Risk of Viral Transmission for Older Adults	OSF / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study of 546 US residents finds older adults reported increased perceived risk of COVID-19 transmission after imagining a personalized scenario with social consequences Authors argue that though older adults tended to forget numerical information over time, the personalized simulations elicited increases in perceived risk that persisted over a 1-3 week delay Overall, the results have implications for communicating information about health risks to older adults, and may suggest new strategies to combat annual influenza outbreaks
09.03.2021	Vaccine effectiveness after 1st and 2nd dose of the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine in long-term care facility residents and healthcare workers – a Danish cohort study	MedRxiv / Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports on retrospective registry- and population-based observational cohort study including all persons currently living in long-term care facilities (LTCF residents) and frontline healthcare workers (HCW) as the first receivers of vaccination, and presents preliminary population based vaccine effectiveness (VE) estimates in these two target groups. Among LTCF residents, 95.2% and 86.0% received first and second dose from 27 December 2020 until 18 February 2021, for HWC the proportion was 27.8% and 24.4%. During a median follow-up of 53 days, there were 488 and 5,663 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases in the unvaccinated groups, whereas there were 57 and 52 in LTCF residents and HCW within the first 7 days after the second dose and 27 and 10 cases beyond seven days of second dose Results were promising regarding the VE both within and beyond seven days of second vaccination with the BNT162b2 mRNA Covid-19 Vaccine currently used in many countries to help mitigate the global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Reports and other publications

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
05.03.2021	COVID-19: Symptoms in Dying Residents of Nursing Homes	Strang, Peter; et al.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief report compares symptom prevalence and relief in residents who died in nursing homes with residents who were acutely referred to hospitals in Sweden, based on data retrieved in August 2020

	and in Those Admitted to Hospitals		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Despite access to oxygen and pharmacologic/nonpharmacologic therapies in hospitals, symptom relief in dying nursing home residents acutely admitted to hospitals was lower compared with those who died in nursing homes, possibly because of differences in patient characteristics.
--	------------------------------------	--	---

Guidance

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
04.03.2021	Written Statement: Update on care home visiting	Gov.wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the last three-week review of the coronavirus regulations, the First Minister said we would be re-examining the guidance on care home visiting, to see whether more care home visits could be supported.
05.03.2021	Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities / update	CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), an independent panel of medical and public health experts, CDC recommends residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF) be included among those offered the first supply of COVID-19 vaccines.
05.03.2021	Caring in COVID: More than just a family member – indoor visits start up again	National Care Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the successful introduction of outdoor visits in the care homes run by Methodist Homes (MHA), the charity is now starting to introduce limited indoor visits again.
08.03.2021	Arrangements for visiting out of the care home	Gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out how care homes can support residents of working age on visits outside of the care home.

Statistics

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
------------------	-------------	-----------	--------

02.03.2021	Notifications to Care Inspectorate Wales related to COVID-19 in adult care homes: 1 March 2020 to 26 February 2021	Welsh Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to improve the timely availability of data related to coronavirus (COVID-19) in adult care homes the Welsh Government and Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) have agreed to publish 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, based on notifications by care home providers to CIW.
03.03.2021	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.
09.03.2021	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).
09.03.2021	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.

Editorials and News

Publication date	Title / URL	Author(s)	Digest
26.02.2021	Why the market matters in adult social care (and what we can do about it)	Simon Bottery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Covid-19 pandemic has shone a harsh light on adult social care. Attention has inevitably turned to the question of whether the adult social care sector is adequately funded. While money is at the heart of many issues, extra money needs to be accompanied by reforms to improve the system for all those who need social care and the people who care for them.
05.03.2021	Background Paper on Enabling Social Contact for Nursing Home	Kerstin Hämel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working Group on Nursing, Health and Ageing of the Covid-19 Public Health Research Network (https://www.public-health-covid19.de/en/) has addressed the question of social contact for nursing home residents during the Covid-19 pandemic.

	<p>Residents during the Covid-19 Pandemic</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Background Paper (Version 01; December 15, 2020) draws on an explorative interview study (April/May 2020) to provide insights into nurses' perceptions of contact restrictions in nursing homes in Germany during the early phase of the pandemic.
--	---	--	--