

w/c 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

## Public Health England

### Health matters: flu immunisation programme and COVID-19

This resource focuses on the delivery of the programme, co-infection of flu and COVID-19 and calls to action for the wider health economy and local authorities as they prepare for the first winter with co-circulation of flu and COVID-19.

[Details](#)

### Adult obesity prevalence by National Statistics Socio-economic Classification

Ad-hoc analysis of adult (aged 16 and over) obesity prevalence by National Statistics Socio-economic Status (NS-SEC) from the Health Survey for England (HSE). This document shows the prevalence of obesity among men and women in England by National Statistics Socio-economic Status (NS-SEC) using 5 years of Health Survey for England data combined from 2013 to 2017.

Further information on adult obesity prevalence in England is available in the [adult obesity data slide set](#).

[Details](#)

### ASSIST-Lite screening tool: how to use

Guidance for health and social care professionals on using the ASSIST-Lite tool to identify substance use and provide appropriate intervention.

[Details](#)

### PHE statement on delayed reporting of COVID-19 cases

A technical issue, now resolved, resulted in cases between 25 September and 2 October not being included in the reported daily COVID-19 figures.

[Details](#)

### National COVID-19 surveillance report: 2 October 2020 (week 40)

#### COVID-19: track coronavirus cases

Dashboard showing statistics on cases of coronavirus and deaths associated with coronavirus in the UK, updated daily.

## Department of Health and Social Care

A reminder that all government articles on Covid-19 can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

### The new National Genomic Healthcare Strategy: Genome UK: the future of healthcare

This strategy sets out how the UK genomics community will come together to harness the latest advances in genetic and genomic science, research and technology for the benefit of patients. It focuses on 3 key areas: diagnosis and personalised medicine; prevention and research

[Press release](#)

[Details](#)

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### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): how to self-isolate when you travel to the UK**

This guidance has been updated to clarify how many days travellers should self-isolate for and from which day the self-isolation period starts (that is, the day after they leave the non-exempt country).

[Details](#)

### **Guidance to parents and guardians: when you should book a coronavirus test for your child**

This letter explains that you should only book a test if your child has any of these 3 coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste. A test is not required for a runny nose, sneezing or feeling unwell.

[Details](#)

### **New recruitment drive to help 10,000 people with serious mental illness**

£27 million has been announced for mental health charity Think Ahead to expand their mental health social work graduate programme.

More than 10,000 people living with serious mental illness will receive support from 480 new mental health social workers, thanks to a £27 million funding boost for the charity Think Ahead. The new funding – which has been welcomed by mental health charity Mind – will help recruit and train a new wave of mental health social workers, who will form a vital part of the response to coronavirus. Applications for the graduate places have opened.

[Details](#)

### **Interim results from largest COVID-19 study published**

Over 80,000 volunteers tested in England between 18 and 26 September as part of the country's largest study into COVID-19.

[Press release](#)

### **REACT-1: real-time assessment of community transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in September 2020**

Interim findings from Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI show 1 in 200 people were infected but suggest growth of infection may be slowing. Virus circulating with significantly higher prevalence than between 20 Aug-7 Sept and infections had increased substantially across generations and country, with 1 in 200 infected; R number estimated as 1.47, slightly lower than during Aug (1.7)

[Details](#)

### **Adult Social Care Infection Control Fund – round 2: guidance**

This guidance sets out the infection control measures that the new infection control fund will support, including information on the distribution of funds and reporting requirements.

[Details](#)

### **Healthcare UK annual review 2019 to 2020**

Healthcare UK's activities and performance for the year ending 31 March 2020

[Details](#)

### **1 in 8 people in England have now been tested for coronavirus**

1 in 8 people have now received a coronavirus test at least once since the launch of NHS Test and Trace on 28 May.

[Details](#)

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## **Independent SAGE**

### **Emergency Statement on Universities in the Context of Rising SARS-CoV-2 Cases in Late September 2020**

Independent SAGE releases 5 recommendations to 1) ensure the needs, health, wellbeing, and safety of students and staff; 2) prevent further transmission across campuses to students and staff alike, and, 3) enable the 'liveability' of student life on campus in the coming weeks.

1. Transfer all teaching and learning online by default.
2. Make essential in-person teaching and learning (e.g., components of laboratory or practice-based courses) contingent on the regular testing of students and staff, with a 'dashboard' approach as adopted by US Colleges, and with stringent adherence to face coverings, handwashing, physical distancing, and ventilation mitigations.
3. Offer students the choice whether to live on campus / in their university accommodation or at home elsewhere (e.g., with parents and caregivers) and review at the end of the calendar year (i.e., December), and avoid numerous journeys between home and university.
4. Ensure that students who choose to remain at university while learning online maintain the right to return home for the rest of the term at any point, with accommodation fees refunded, and with testing before doing so.
5. Ensure full and generous support to students both to self-isolate and to access online learning resources, including practical needs (e.g., food, laundry), learning (e.g., IT, connectivity), and social and emotional needs (e.g., buddy systems, regular wellbeing checks, online events).

[Details](#)

## **Government Office for Science**

### **The R number and growth rate in the UK**

The latest reproduction number (R) and growth rate of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.

[Details](#)

## **NHS England**

### **Dementia wellbeing in the COVID-19 pandemic**

This resource is primarily for clinicians working with people with dementia, but can also be used by carers and people with dementia.

This document takes the wellbeing pathway and sets out the adjustments and amendments needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights key priorities and actions for each step in the pathway.

[Details](#)

### **Surge in people checking their risk of type 2 diabetes**

Almost 300,000 people have accessed the tool to check their risk of type 2 diabetes online less than two months after the NHS fast tracked access to its world leading Healthier You Diabetes Prevention Programme.

Latest figures show that 291,325 people used the Diabetes UK Know Your Risk tool since the end of July – a 637% increase compared to two months previously.

Access to the programme was boosted following new findings that people are twice as likely to die from COVID-19 if they have type 2 diabetes.

[Details](#)

### **Readiness for increase in hospital admissions for COVID-19: Letter from Keith Willett and Pauline Philip**

Letter acknowledges that regions have been working with systems on preparedness for potential second wave and requests they set out their plans in the event of a further peak of COVID demand and the impact this may have on restoration of non-COVID health services.

[Details](#)

### **NHS to introduce 'one stop shops' in the community for life saving checks**

The NHS needs to radically overhaul the way MRI, CT and other diagnostic services are delivered for patients, a major report to NHS England recommends today.

Community diagnostic hubs or 'one stop shops' should be created across the country, away from hospitals, so that patients can receive life-saving checks close to their homes. Professor Sir Mike Richards was commissioned by NHS chief executive Sir Simon Stevens to review diagnostic services as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

[Details](#)

### **NHS becomes the world's first national health system to commit to become 'carbon net zero', backed by clear deliverables and milestones**

The NHS has adopted a multiyear plan to become the world's first carbon net zero national health system.

The commitment comes amid growing evidence of the health impacts of climate change and air pollution, and aims to save thousands of lives and hospitalisations across the country. Air pollution is linked to killer conditions like heart disease, stroke and lung cancer, and academics have linked high pollution days with hundreds of extra out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and hospital admissions for stroke and asthma.

[Details](#)

### **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence**

#### **People approaching the end of life should be supported in a timely and effective way**

NICE has published an impact report on end of life care in which they highlight NICE guidance and standards which have contributed to improvements in end of life care for adults.

Recommendations say near the end of a person's life, NICE expects them and those near to them to be provided with personalised care, support and effective planning of the highest quality. NICE's acting director of health and social care has published a blog discussing her thoughts, in the National Health Executive.

[Details](#)

### **Research and analysis from academic journals– non-coronavirus-related**

#### **BMJ Open: Serum 25-hydroxyvitamin D level in relation to weight change and the risk of weight gain in adults of normal weight at baseline: the Norwegian HUNT cohort study**

Study (n=1501; normal baseline BMI) found that each 25 nmol/L increase in serum 25(OH)D level was associated with a small reduction of 0.05% in relative annual weight change, a 10% reduced risk of clinical weight gain, and a 19% reduced risk of annual weight gain over 11 yrs.

[Full text](#)

### **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Alcohol intake reduction for controlling hypertension**

Review (1 RCT, n=269) found interventions for decreasing alcohol intake consumption did not result in differences in systolic and diastolic blood pressure vs. control, although there was a reduction in alcohol intake favouring the active intervention.

[Full text](#)

### **British Journal of General Practice: Socioeconomic status and HRT prescribing: a study of practice-level data in England**

Prescribing data in England in 2018 show overall prescribing rate of HRT was 29% lower in practices from the most deprived areas vs. most affluent (incidence rate ratio = 0.71; 95% CI = 0.68 to 0.73), potentially reflecting a large unmet need in menopause care in these areas.

[Abstract](#)

### **The Lancet Public Health: The burden of neurological diseases in Europe: an analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017**

Data review found that, in 2017, the number of disability-adjusted life-years attributable to neurological disorders was 21.0 million in the EU and that neurological disorders ranked third after cardiovascular diseases and cancers representing 19.5% of total deaths.

[Full text](#)

### **PLOS One: Obesity prevention in the early years: A mapping study of national policies in England from a behavioural science perspective**

There is substantial policy activity to address early years obesity but much is focused on education. Scope exists to strengthen actions relating to upstream policies which act on food systems and those targeting psychological factors contributing to obesity risk.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ: Menstrual cycle regularity and length across the reproductive lifespan and risk of premature mortality: prospective cohort study**

Study in 79,505 premenopausal women found that those who reported always having irregular menstrual cycles experienced higher mortality rates during follow-up than women with very regular cycles in same age ranges; likewise for women who reported usual cycle length was  $\geq 40$  days.

[Full text](#)

### **The Lancet HIV: Safety and immunogenicity of two heterologous HIV vaccine regimens in healthy, HIV-uninfected adults (TRAVVERSE): a randomised, parallel-group, placebo-controlled, double-blind, phase 1/2a study**

Study (n=201) reports newly developed, tetravalent Ad26 vaccine was generally safe, well-tolerated, and found to elicit higher immune responses than trivalent regimen. Regimens using tetravalent vaccine component are being advanced into field trials to assess efficacy against HIV

[Full text](#)

### **The Lancet editorial: US election 2020: public health**

In the race for the White House, where do US President Donald Trump and his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, stand on public health?

[Full text](#)

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### **Research and analysis from academic journals - coronavirus-related**

#### **JAMA Pediatrics: Susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Children and Adolescents Compared With Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis**

Review (32 studies; 41 640 children/adolescents; 268 945 adults) found preliminary evidence that children/adolescents have lower susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 vs adults (pooled OR: 0.56; 95% CI, 0.37-0.85; I<sup>2</sup> = 94.6%), however, provides no information on infectivity of children.

[Full text](#)

#### **Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews: Signs and symptoms to determine if a patient presenting in primary care or hospital outpatient settings has COVID-19 disease**

Review of 16 studies (n=7,706) found that fever, myalgia or arthralgia, fatigue, and headache could be considered red flags for COVID-19, however based on currently available data, neither absence nor presence of signs or symptoms are accurate enough to rule in or out disease.

[Full text](#)

#### **International Journal of Infectious Diseases: A systematic review and meta-analysis of published research data on COVID-19 infection-fatality rates**

Based on a systematic review and meta-analysis of published evidence on COVID-19 until July, 2020, the IFR of the disease across populations is 0.68% (0.53-0.82%). However, due to very high heterogeneity in the meta-analysis, it is difficult to know if this represents a wholly unbiased point estimate. It is likely that, due to age and perhaps underlying comorbidities in the population, different places will experience different IFRs due to the disease. Given issues with mortality recording, it is also likely that this represents an underestimate of the true IFR figure.

[Full text](#)

#### **British Journal of General Practice: Impact of COVID-19 on loneliness, mental health, and health service utilisation: a prospective cohort study of older adults with multimorbidity in primary care**

Study (n=583 ≥60 years) reports psychosocial health of older patients with multimorbidity markedly deteriorated and missed medical appointments substantially increased after the COVID-19 outbreak.

[Full text](#)

#### **The Lancet: Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in a large nationwide sample of patients on dialysis in the USA: a cross-sectional study**

Study of monthly testing of remainder plasma of 28,503 patients receiving dialysis found that fewer than 10% of US adults had formed antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 as of July, 2020, with significant regional variation (< 5% prevalence in west; > 25% in northeast).

A related commentary commends this study for its scalable sampling strategy that offers a blueprint for standardised national serosurveillance but adds that questions remain around the longevity of the immune response and its conferred protection.

[Full text](#)

#### **NEJM: Safety and Immunogenicity of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-1273 Vaccine in Older Adults**

Phase 1 study which included 40 older adults (>56 years) found adverse events were mainly mild or moderate. The 100-µg dose induced higher binding- and neutralizing-antibody titres than the 25-µg dose, which supports the use of the 100-µg dose in a phase 3 vaccine trial.

[Full text](#)

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### **JAMA Internal Medicine: The Exclusion of Older Persons From Vaccine and Treatment Trials for Coronavirus Disease 2019—Missing the Target**

Results of review (847 RCTs) indicate older adults are likely to be excluded from more than 50% of COVID-19 trials and 100% of vaccine trials. Authors' warn such exclusion will limit the ability to evaluate the efficacy, dosage, and adverse effects of the intended treatments.

[Full text](#)

### **PLOS Medicine: Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 antibodies in people with an acute loss in their sense of smell and/or taste in a community-based population in London, UK: An observational cohort study**

This study of 590 people reporting loss of smell and/or taste found 77.6% had SARS-CoV-2 antibodies; seropositivity was more likely in those with smell vs taste loss (OR 2.86; 95% CI 1.27–6.36;  $p < 0.001$ ). The study did not have a control group and relied on self-reporting.

The authors suggest recent loss of smell is a highly specific symptom of Covid-19 that should be considered more generally in guiding case isolation, testing and treatment of Covid-19.

[Full text](#)

### **The Lancet: Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation support in COVID-19: an international cohort study of the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization registry**

Study (n=1035) found an increased risk of in-hospital mortality in those requiring ECMO (HR 1.89, 95% CI 1.20–2.97). In this cohort, the estimated in hospital mortality at 90 days was 37.4%, and the mortality in those with a final disposition of death or discharge was 39%.

[Full text](#)

### **Journal of Clinical Oncology: COVID-19 Severity and Outcomes in Patients With Cancer: A Matched Cohort Study**

Study (n=585) found no statistically significant differences in morbidity or mortality ( $p=0.894$ ) between patients with (n=117) and without cancer and presenting symptoms, and in-hospital complications were similar between the cancer and non-cancer groups.

[Full text](#)

### **Diabetes Care: Diabetes as a Risk Factor for Poor Early Outcomes in Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19**

Study (n=450) found among hospitalised patients with COVID-19, diabetes was linked to greater odds of ICU admission (ICUA; OR 1.59; 95% CI 1.01–2.52), mechanical ventilation (MV, 1.97; 1.21–3.20), and death (2.02; 1.01–4.03] at 14 days, and obesity with greater odds of ICUA & MV

[Full text](#)

### **Heart: Place and causes of acute cardiovascular mortality during the COVID-19 pandemic**

Retrospective study of 5 87,225 acute CV deaths (ACDs), England, Wales, Jan 2014 to Jun 2020, found pandemic has resulted in inflation in ACDs, nearly half of which occurred in community & most did not relate to COVID-19 suggesting delays to seeking help or undiagnosed COVID-19.

After 2 March 2020, there were 28,969 acute cardiovascular deaths of which 5.1% related to COVID-19, and an excess acute cardiovascular mortality of 2085 (+8%).

[Full text](#)

### **Pharmaceutical Journal: The COVID-19 vaccines being backed by the UK and when we might get them**

UK government has ordered 340m doses of vaccines from several manufacturers, with hope one will prove successful in clinical trials over next few months. Article discusses the vaccine candidates, noting there are no guarantees & some of strategies are not without their challenges

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ Open: Clinical risk score to predict in-hospital mortality in COVID-19 patients: a retrospective cohort study**

Italian risk score based on 516 COVID-19 pts found predictors of mortality (increasing age; number of chronic diseases; respiratory rate; PaO<sub>2</sub>/FiO<sub>2</sub>; serum creatinine and platelet count) were able to stratify patients at low, intermediate and high risk of in-hospital death.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ Feature: Covid-19: A V shaped recovery for the NHS?**

BMJ Feature notes that unless the NHS works harder than before covid-19, the fall in the rate of work between February and April, recovering only by October, will mean a loss of NHS activity over the whole year.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: CDC publishes then withdraws information on aerosol transmission**

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provoked controversy when it changed information about airborne transmission of covid-19 last week.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: Glitch leaves more than 60 000 tests carried out in England unable to link test results to new contact tracing app**

NHS hospitals and Public Health England laboratories were unable to share their results with the NHS's new contact tracing app for England after it went live last week. The Department of Health and Social Care subsequently said that it had fixed the issue.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: Government poised to amend regulations to allow use of unlicensed vaccine**

The Department of Health and Social Care for England explained that if a suitable vaccine emerged with strong evidence of safety, quality, and efficacy the government would seek to license it through the usual route but could supply it in the meantime.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: Universities roll out pooled testing of students in bid to keep campuses open**

Some UK universities are introducing covid-19 screening programmes using pooled testing to help prevent outbreaks and allow campuses to stay open.

The University of Cambridge and the University of Nottingham are both using pooled testing, which involves mixing several samples together and then testing the pooled sample. If the result comes back positive the people in the group then need to be tested individually.

[Full text](#)

[Pooled testing – linked opinion](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: Isolating older people would be “age based apartheid,” says NHS boss**

The chief executive of NHS England has said segmenting and shielding the oldest and most vulnerable groups of people from covid-19 rather than imposing local or national lockdowns would represent “age based apartheid” and should be rejected.

Simon Stevens said such a policy, being advocated by some sections of the medical profession, was “implausible,” because while it was sensible for older people to take extra precautions they often received help from working age people. He also cited the negative effects of social isolation on older people as a reason not to pursue such a measure.

[Full text](#)

### **BMJ news: Covid-19: Vaccine roll out could take a year and will require difficult prioritisation decisions**

The Royal Society DELVE Initiative have issued a report outlining the key considerations for developing, evaluating, manufacturing, and distributing a vaccine against SAR-CoV-2. Even after a covid-19 vaccine is found to be effective, it could still take a year to reach the general public and the roll out of any vaccine will be accompanied by difficult decisions about who should be prioritised to receive it

[Full text](#)

[DELVE report](#)

### **Office for National Statistics (ONS)**

#### **Characteristics of people testing positive for COVID-19 (published 28<sup>th</sup> September)**

Our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey has shown the number of infections in the community in England rising in recent weeks. New analysis of the characteristics of those testing positive shows that shows that in recent weeks, COVID-19 positivity rates have been higher amongst people who have travelled abroad, although increases are seen in both those who have and have not travelled.

Our latest analysis suggests that socially distant direct contact in younger age groups is an increasingly important factor in contracting COVID-19. For individuals aged under 35 years, positivity rates have increased over time among those who report having had socially distanced direct contact with six or more people aged 18 to 69 years. This means that reporting having had socially distanced direct contact with a larger number of people appears to be an increasingly important factor in rising positivity rates in the younger age groups.

However, we have found no evidence that patient-facing roles or working location are driving the greater increase in positivity rate in younger age groups in recent weeks.

Between 23 July and 10 September, rates have increased fastest primarily in the least deprived areas in each region.

[Details](#)

#### **Deaths involving COVID-19 (published 29<sup>th</sup> September)**

There were 139 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales in the week ending 18 September 2020.

This remains far below numbers seen earlier in the pandemic, and accounts for just 1.5% of all deaths in the latest week. The total number of deaths in the week ending 18 September 2020 was 9,523 (above the five-year average for the fifth time in the past six weeks).

By setting, private homes continued to record deaths above average. Hospitals, care homes and other locations had fewer deaths than normal at this time of year.

Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 52,631 COVID-19 deaths registered in England and Wales, up to 18 September 2020 (28,967 men and 23,664 women).

The majority of deaths involving COVID-19 have been among people aged 65 years and over (47,005 out of 52,631).

[Details](#)

### **Fewer adults reported travelling to work following the latest guidance update (published 1<sup>st</sup> October)**

The proportion of working adults who travelled to work fell to 59% between 24 and 27 September, down from 64% the previous week, while the proportion who worked from home exclusively increased to 24% from 21%.

While a lower proportion of adults travelled to their place of work in the last week following guidance from the government for the public to work from home where possible, other markers of [the impact of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic on the economy and society](#) remained in line with previous trends.

[Details](#)

### **Levels of socialising lower in local lockdown areas (published 2<sup>nd</sup> October)**

Our [Opinions and Lifestyle Survey \(OPN\)](#) this week looks at the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on British society over the period 24 to 27 September. This week, levels of socialising, eating out and travel have decreased following an increase in the summer.

Local lockdowns have had an effect on socialising, with 37% of those in local lockdown areas having not socialised with anyone outside of their household, compared with 22% of those in non-lockdown areas. The percentage of adults who met with others in a personal place, such as someone's home, decreased the most with a drop to 20% from 30% last week. Meanwhile the percentage of adults who left their home to eat or drink at a restaurant, café, bar or pub decreased for the third week in a row to 28%, compared with 29% last week.

[Details](#)

### **COVID-19 infection survey (published 2<sup>nd</sup> October)**

The estimated number of people in England who have tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) has continued to increase in recent weeks.

An estimated 116,600 people within the community population in England had COVID-19 during the latest week, from 18 to 24 September 2020, equating to around 1 in 500 people.

The current infection rates have been highest among teenagers and young adults.

[Details](#)

### **Children's views on well-being and what makes a happy life, UK: 2020**

Qualitative analysis of what children told us is important to their well-being using UK wide focus groups. Findings include feeling loved and having positive, supportive relationships, particularly with friends and family, including having someone to talk to and rely on were consistently stated as a top priority for children to have a happy life.

[Details](#)

## **Centre for Mental Health**

### **Covid-19 and the nation's mental health: October 2020**

A new study from the Centre for Mental Health estimates that 8.5 million adults and 1.5 million children in England will need support for depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorders and other mental

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health difficulties in the coming months and years. This is the equivalent of 20% of all adults and 15% of all children.

The report says two-thirds of the people who will need support have existing mental health difficulties and may already be receiving care and treatment. The pandemic may mean they need more support, while others will need help with their mental health for the first time.

[Details](#)

### **NHS Confederation**

#### **NHS Reset: a new direction for health and care**

Bringing together NHS Confederation members and partners, the NHS Reset campaign has convened the health and care system to reflect on the learning from the past six months of the Covid-19 pandemic and what it means for the future. This report identifies five factors it believes will help to fundamentally reset the way health and care is planned, commissioned and delivered: honesty and realism; extra funding; a lighter, leaner culture; integrating health and care; and tackling health inequalities.

[Details](#)

### **Alzheimer's Society**

#### **Worst hit: dementia during coronavirus**

Since the coronavirus (Covid-19) lockdown on 23 March, this investigation found family and friends have spent an extra 92 million hours caring for loved ones with dementia, due to the double impact of lockdown making dementia symptoms worse, and the chronically underfunded social care system leaving them nowhere else to turn. It states that the government must fix social care now, learning lessons to avoid further winter tragedy, as dementia carers struggle with depression, insomnia and exhaustion.

[Details](#)

### **Cancer Research UK**

#### **Cancer in the UK 2020: Socio-economic deprivation**

Despite improvement in survival rates, there is still evidence of inequalities right across the cancer pathway, with more than 30,000 extra cases of cancer in the UK each year attributable to socio-economic variation, and worse survival for the most deprived groups.

[Details](#)

### **Institute for Fiscal Studies**

#### **Spending Review 2020: Covid-19, Brexit and beyond**

This report outlines the public spending framework and explains which components of spending are subject to the Spending Review process, and why. It then discusses four major challenges confronting the Chancellor: the economic fallout from the pandemic; uncertainty associated with Brexit; making decisions on the back of a decade of austerity; and the government's ambitious 'levelling up' agenda. The report discusses the options facing the Chancellor, setting out a number of scenarios to illustrate the two major choices to be made.

[Details](#)

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### **Covid-19 and English council funding: what is the medium-term outlook?**

This report considers how councils' revenues and spending needs may evolve over the period to 2024–25, accounting for both the impact of Covid-19 and the pre-Covid funding outlook.

[Details](#)

### **House of Commons Women and Equalities Committee**

#### **Unequal impact? Coronavirus, disability and access to services: interim report on temporary provisions in the Coronavirus Act**

This report looks at Care Act easement provisions and temporary Mental Health Act provisions as well as local authority duties to children and young people with special educational needs. It concludes that these provisions have the potential to substantially restrict or curtail rights that disabled people rely on for their quality of life.

[Details](#)

### **Health and Social Care Select Committee**

#### **Delivering core NHS and care services during the pandemic and beyond**

This report aims to catalogue the impact and unprecedented challenge caused by Covid-19 to the provision of essential services. It calls for urgent action to assess and tackle a backlog of appointments and an unknown patient demand for all health services, specifically across cancer treatments, mental health services, dentistry services, GP services and elective surgery. It also looks at the case made for routine testing of all NHS staff.

[Details](#)

### **All-Party Parliamentary Group on Suicide and Self-Harm Prevention**

#### **Inquiry into the support available for young people who self-harm**

This inquiry explored the experiences of young people who self-harm in accessing support services. In particular, it examined: support services currently available in both clinical and the wider community settings (including schools); plans for improving and expanding this support; and the changes needed to ensure that support is made more effective and widely available. It concludes that young people who self-harm are often made to wait until they reach crisis point before receiving support.

[Details](#)

### **Children's Commissioner**

#### **Childhood in the time of Covid**

While for some children there were certain aspects of the pandemic that brought benefits such as spending more time with their families, this report sets out how for many of the most vulnerable children the disruption of the past six months has been damaging and compounded existing inequalities. It calls for a comprehensive recovery package for children and provides a roadmap for what should be done to help children to recover from their experiences of the past six months and the ongoing crisis.

[Details](#)

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Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

### **The Patients Association**

#### **Pandemic patient experience: UK patient experience of health, care and other support during the Covid-19 pandemic**

The Patients Association wanted to get a better understanding of how patients experienced the Covid-19 pandemic. This is a report based on the findings from a survey asking for experiences of health and care services, and the experience of daily life. The survey had four sections: managing and accessing care for existing health condition(s); experience of treatment and care for Covid-19; experience of end of life care and bereavement support; and experience of services under lockdown overall.

[Details](#)

### **Institute of Public Care**

#### **Ordinary and unique lives for adults with a learning disability and/or autism: a six steps approach**

This paper argues that now is the right time to build on the foundation of health and social care policy and legislation from across the UK through outcome-focused 'integrated' service design, commissioning and performance management approaches. The paper offers a whole-system model of care as the evidence-based framework to describe the support and services needed to promote good outcomes for adults with a learning disability and/or autism.

[Details](#)

### **The King's Fund**

#### **Prevention in mental health: from theory to practice – virtual conference**

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that addressing growing levels of mental ill health is one of the defining public health challenges of our time. Preventive approaches are fundamental to achieving this, but there often needs to be greater clarity about what these mean in practice and how they can be implemented within the NHS, local communities, schools and families. This virtual conference (7<sup>th</sup> December) hears from experts from all parts of the health and care sector and discuss what prevention means with regard to mental health and how preventive approaches can be applied in practice.

[Details](#)

### **National Audit Office**

#### **Investigation into how government increased the number of ventilators available to the NHS in response to COVID-19**

Report concludes ventilator programmes were started on the basis that securing as many mechanical ventilators as possible, as quickly as possible, was necessary to safeguard public health. For this reason overall costs were higher than would have been expected in normal times.

[Details](#)

### **The Nuffield Trust**

#### **When Brexit and Covid collide**

With the UK's departure from the EU's single market looming, Mark Dayan wrote for the BMJ on the impact it will have on health care, and in particular on supplies, workforce and finances. As the most momentous event in infectious disease for a hundred years is also still very much ongoing, he argues that 2020 will stand out in the history of the NHS for decades to come.

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