

w/c 16th November 2020

Produced by Health Evidence Matters

Public Health England

COVID-19: deaths of people with learning disabilities

This review finds the number of people with learning disabilities in England who died from Covid-19 (definitely or possibly) up to 5 June 2020 was 6.3 times the rate in the general population, after adjusting for under-reporting and standardising for age and sex.

[Details](#)

'Help Us, Help You' campaign urges public not to ignore persistent tummy troubles

People with lasting abdominal symptoms are being urged to get checked for cancer as part of the NHS and Public Health England's campaign

[Details](#)

Antibiotic use and resistance: what the public know

Report presenting findings of a national household survey of public knowledge about anti-microbial resistance (AMR), conducted in 2017. It will help design campaigns to improve public understanding, reduce inappropriate antibiotic use and raise general awareness of the threat posed by AMR.

[Details](#)

Parents urged to keep childhood vaccination appointments during national COVID-19 restrictions

Public Health England is reminding parents that the national COVID-19 restrictions should not stop children from receiving life-saving vaccines. The NHS is ensuring that appointments are still available and that routine vaccinations should continue to go ahead.

[Details](#)

Tuberculosis in England: 2020 report

In 2019, the number of people notified with TB in England rose for the first time in 9 years, from 4,615 in 2018 to 4,725 in 2019 (rise of 2.4%). Despite this, the rate of 8.4 per 100,000 in England means it is still classified as a low incidence country by the WHO.

[Details](#)

COVID-19: letters to clinically extremely vulnerable people

Reference letters to clinically extremely vulnerable people, containing information on new shielding guidance, are now available on the Public Health England website (personalised letters/ formal shielding notifications will be sent out to all of those affected).

[Details](#)

Health matters: cold weather and COVID-19

This edition of Health Matters covers the impact of cold weather on health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

[Details](#)

Caveat: Content of these briefings has not been critically appraised! Apply your appraisal skills to articles referenced!
Health Evidence Matters provides clinical and public health evidence reviews and training in evidence-based practice skills.

Janssen to begin COVID-19 vaccine trials in the UK

Pharmaceutical company to begin trials of UK vaccine from 16 November.

[Details](#)

Department of Health & Social Care

Introducing a total online advertising restriction for products high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS)

Consultation invited on a proposal for a total online HFSS advertising restriction and asks for views on how a restriction could be designed to effectively reduce the amount of HFSS advertising children are exposed to.

[Details](#)

REACT-1 study of coronavirus transmission: October 2020 final results

From 16 Oct to 2 Nov, the overall weighted national prevalence of Covid-19 infection in the community was 1.3% (previously 0.6%). However, following the rapid growth reported for 16-25 Oct (estimated R 1.56), there was little evidence of growth during 26 Oct-2 Nov (R 0.85).

[Details](#)

Lateral Flow Tests:

More rapid COVID-19 tests to be rolled out across England

600,000 lateral flow tests to be sent out this week to kick-start the significant expansion of testing, followed by weekly local allocations.

[Details](#)

Roll out of lateral flow tests to local authorities

A list of local authorities across England issued with rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) tests by the Department of Health and Social Care.

[Details](#)

Oxford University and PHE confirm high-sensitivity of lateral flow tests

Extensive clinical evaluation shows lateral flow tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in the community, including for asymptomatic people.

[Details](#)

Pilot for family members to get regular testing for safer care home visits

Named family and friends may soon be able to regularly visit loved ones in care homes as a new testing pilot is launched.

[Details](#)

Two new megalabs to open in 2021 to transform the UK's diagnostic facilities

The labs in Leamington Spa and Scotland will add 600,000 to the UK's daily testing capacity when operating at full capacity, meaning faster turnaround times for test results.

[Details](#)

Stopping movement of staff between care settings

Views sought on plans to minimise the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) infections by making residential and nursing care home providers restrict the movement of care staff.

[Details](#)

Independent SAGE

COVID-19 and health inequality

Health Inequalities report shows the most deprived neighbourhoods in England have a COVID-19 death rate more than twice that of the most affluent.

[Details](#)

Government Office for Science

Latest R number and growth rate

Last updated on Friday 13 November 2020.

Latest R number range for the UK

1.0-1.2

Latest growth rate range for the UK

+1% to +3%

[Details](#)

SARS-COV-2: Transmission Routes and Environments, 22 October 2020

Paper prepared by EMG and NERVTAG on SARS-COV-2 transmission routes and environments.

[Details](#)

NHS England

First Episode Rapid Early Intervention for Eating Disorders (FREED)

This new NHS service, scaled up from an early intervention service, will be rolled out across the country to support and target care to young people with recent onset eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder or another eating disorder).

[Details](#)

Urgent preparing for general practice to contribute to a potential COVID-19 vaccination programme

Letter states the BMA General Practitioners Committee in England has now agreed with NHS England and NHS Improvement the general practice COVID-19 vaccination service which will be commissioned in line with agreed national terms and conditions as an enhanced service (ES).

[Details](#)

Research and analysis from academic journals and preprints – non-coronavirus-related

JECH: Household and area-level social determinants of multimorbidity: a systematic review

Systematic review of 41 studies from North America, Europe and Australasia showed that the odds of multimorbidity were up to 4.4 times higher for participants with the lowest level of income compared with the highest level. Those living in the most deprived areas had the highest prevalence or incidence of multimorbidity

[Full text](#)

Clinical Infectious Diseases: Reductions in Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium difficile Infection and Intensive Care Unit–Acquired Bloodstream Infection Across the United Kingdom Following Implementation of a National Infection Control Campaign

National audit (n=1,189,142 admitted to ICU 2007- 2016) reported 84% reduction in spread of MRSA, 97% reduction in MRSA bloodstream infections and 78% overall reduction in bloodstream infections followed implementation of an infection control campaign.

[Full text](#)

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The Lancet: Efficacy and safety of lowering LDL cholesterol in older patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials

Data from 6 articles (one meta-analysis of 24 trials plus 5 other trials, 21,492 participants ≥ 75 years old) found LDL cholesterol lowering reduced the risk of major vascular events by 26% per 1mmol/L reduction (RR 0.74, 95%CI 0.61-0.89).

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Elevated LDL cholesterol and increased risk of myocardial infarction and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease in individuals aged 70–100 years: a contemporary primary prevention cohort

Review of the Copenhagen General Population Study (n=91,131) found those aged 70–100 years with elevated LDL cholesterol had the highest risk of cardiovascular disease and the lowest estimated NNT in 5 years to prevent one event from use of a moderate-intensity statin.

[Full text](#)

[Never too old to benefit from lipid-lowering treatment](#)

Diabetes Care: The Impact of Physical Activity on the Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes: Evidence and Lessons Learned From the Diabetes Prevention Program, a Long-Standing Clinical Trial Incorporating Subjective and Objective Activity Measures

Study (n=3,232) found a 6% decrease in diabetes incidence per 6 metabolic-hour [MET-h]/week increase in time-dependent physical activity (HR 0.94, 95%CI 0.92-0.96), with a greater effect in those less active at baseline (12% decrease).

[Abstract](#)

The Lancet Psychiatry: The association between loneliness and depressive symptoms among adults aged 50 years and older: a 12-year population-based cohort study

Analysis (n=4211; English Longitudinal Study of Ageing) found higher loneliness (LN) scores at baseline linked to higher depression (DP) symptom severity scores during 12 years follow-up. It was estimated 11–18% of cases of DP could potentially be prevented if LN were eliminated.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: Commission on Diabetes

This Commission discusses the global burden of diabetes, achievements made in diagnosis and treatment and trends in incidence. It makes recommendations to drive a change in policy responses worldwide and close gaps in diabetes prevention, care, data, and professional knowledge

[Details](#)

Research and analysis from academic journals and preprints – coronavirus-related

Antibody tests:

BMJ: Accuracy of UK Rapid Test Consortium (UK-RTC) “AbC-19 Rapid Test” for detection of previous SARS-CoV-2 infection in key workers: test accuracy study

The findings of a new study add to mounting evidence that SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence studies are limited in their ability to correctly identify people who have and have not been infected. Study found positive predictive value of 81.7% for AbC-19 test for population with 10% prevalence (PV) previous infection (~1 in 5 positive AbC-19 tests would be false positive[FP]). If test used for mass screening in relatively low PV setting, large number FP results anticipated

[Full text](#)

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Editorial

[Covid-19: Government buried negative data on its favoured antibody test](#)

Government faces legal action over £75m contract for Covid-19 antibody tests

The judicial review proceedings, issued by the Good Law Project, say the contract to purchase the AbC-19 Rapid Tests was signed without a public tender and without evaluating the accuracy of the test, raising serious concerns about the maladministration of public

[Full text](#)

Nature: Mobility network models of COVID-19 explain inequities and inform reopening

Study indicates that reopening places such as restaurants, fitness centres, cafes, and hotels carries the highest risk for transmitting SARS-CoV-2. Reducing occupancy in these venues may result in a large reduction in predicted infections.

[Full text](#)

EClinical Medicine: Ethnicity and clinical outcomes in COVID-19: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Review (50 studies; n=18,728,893) found that individuals from Black and Asian ethnicities had a higher risk of COVID-19 infection compared to White individuals. (pooled adjusted RR for Black: 2.02, 95% CI 1.67–2.44; for Asian: 1.50, 95% CI 1.24–1.83).

[Full text](#)

MedRxiv (preprint): Measuring the Impact of Exposure to COVID-19 Vaccine Misinformation on Vaccine Intent in the UK and US

The results of nationally representative surveys suggest exposure to online sources of recent misinformation relating to Covid-19 and vaccines led to an absolute fall of 6.4% (3.8-9.0%) in those who would otherwise 'definitely' vaccinate in the UK (54.0% prior to exposure).

[Full text](#)

Thorax: 'Long-COVID': a cross-sectional study of persisting symptoms, biomarker and imaging abnormalities following hospitalisation for COVID-19

Cohort study of 384 patients followed for a median of 54 days post discharge found 53% reported persistent breathlessness, 34% cough, 69% fatigue and 14.6% depression. A total of 38% of chest radiographs remained abnormal with 9% deteriorating.

[Full text](#)

The Lancet: The UK needs a sustainable strategy for COVID-19

Deepti Gurdasani et al on behalf of 79 scientists make seven evidence-based recommendations to avoid repeated lockdowns and their impacts

[Full text](#)

NEJM: Trying to "Protect the NHS" in the United Kingdom

Perspective notes large-scale deployment of rapid tests in the hands of local authorities may help the exit from lockdown, but new optimism about vaccines is tempered with realism that a mass rollout will take many months; a winter of discontent is expected.

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Vaccine candidate may be more than 90% effective, interim results indicate

The study began in July and has so far enrolled nearly 44 000 participants, just under 39 000 of whom have received a second dose of the mRNA vaccine candidate to date with 94 cases of covid-19 confirmed.

Despite encouraging results, concerns still remain about these non-published or peer reviewed data, with no details about participants' demographic details and the severity of the cases reported in the trial.

Logistical problems with the vaccine would need to be tackled, as it has been reported that it requires storage at -70°C .

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: England's daily deaths are still "likely to exceed" first wave peak despite projection changes

The UK government has admitted to errors in slides showing forecasts of daily covid-19 hospital admissions and deaths that were used to support a second lockdown in England. Slides have been amended correcting the error but still show at the upper end of the projection, daily deaths would just exceed 1000 deaths by 8 December.

[Full text](#)

BMJ news: Covid-19: Rapid test missed over 50% of positive cases in Manchester pilot

The government has spent £323m (€358m; \$425m) on securing the technology to deliver 20 minute saliva tests to give to asymptomatic staff at hospitals and care homes as part of its Operation Moonshot mass testing programme.

But concerns have been raised about the accuracy and sensitivity of the OptiGene Direct RT-LAMP (loop mediated isothermal amplification) tests, which identified only 46.7% of infections during a pilot last month. The Department of Health and Social Care said that the results of the Greater Manchester pilot differed from successful trials at three other labs, which had validated the test's effectiveness.

[Full text](#)

BMJ blog: We must stop being polite about Test and Trace—there comes a point where it becomes culpable

Test and Trace is a disaster and doctors should voice outrage, not remain silent, argues these authors

[Full text](#)

BMJ blog: Modelling the pandemic—time is of the essence

Is the right kind of modelling guiding time-sensitive policy decisions on covid-19?

[Full text](#)

BMJ blog: Screening the healthy population for covid-19 is of unknown value, but is being introduced nationwide

[Full text](#)

Imperial College London

Coronavirus prevalence remains high but some evidence of slowdown, REACT shows

Latest REACT study on community prevalence shows cases of COVID-19 in England continue to rise with over 1 in 80 people infected but spread may have slowed recently.

[Details](#) and [Expert reaction](#)

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Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

Immediate Actions in response to mink-variant SARS-CoV-2 virus in Denmark

Alert describes testing, quarantine and isolation actions to be taken with travellers from Denmark following reports of 214 Danish people identified with different mink-variant SARS-CoV-2 viruses and seven unique mutations within these mink-variant viruses.

[Details](#)

Office for National Statistics

Deaths involving COVID-19 increased for the eighth week in a row (published 10th November)

There were 1,379 deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales in the week ending 30 October 2020, the highest weekly figure since the week ending 5 June 2020.

By region, the highest number of COVID-19 deaths was reported in the North West (445 deaths), followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (204).

In total, there were 10,887 deaths across England and Wales in the week ending 30 October 2020, 12.7% of which involved COVID-19. Deaths in the latest week remained higher than normal for this time of year.

Number of COVID-19 infections continues to increase across UK (published 6th November)

The number of people with the coronavirus (COVID-19) in England and Wales continues to increase but the rate of increase is slower than it has been in recent weeks.

We estimate 618,700 people in England had the coronavirus in the most recent week, or 1 in 90 people.

[Details](#)

Infections and deaths (published 13th November)

- The number of people with COVID-19 in England has risen in recent weeks but the rate of increase has slowed
- We estimate 654,000 people in England had the coronavirus in the most recent week up to 6 November 2020, or 1 in 85 people
- Infection rates are now decreasing in older teenagers and young adults, with rates appearing to have levelled off among younger children, teenagers and those aged 25 to 34 years; rates continue to increase in those aged 35 years and above
- Positivity rates in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are estimated at 1 in 135, 1 in 85, and 1 in 105 people respectively

[Details](#)

Social impacts of COVID-19 on disabled people in Great Britain

- Half of disabled people who received medical care before COVID-19 began said their treatment had been affected; 29% said they were currently receiving treatment for only some of their conditions and 22% said that their treatment had been cancelled or not started
- This compares with 16% of non-disabled people who received treatment for only some of their conditions and 11% whose treatment had been cancelled or not started
- Almost half (45%) of those disabled people who had reported receiving a reduced level of treatment or had their treatment cancelled said they felt their health had worsened

[Details](#)

People and social impacts: Younger people more inclined to report physical contact when socialising with others

Almost a quarter (23%) of people aged 16 to 29 years have reported physical contact with at least one person when socialising indoors in the past 24 hours, excluding those not from their household or support bubble.

Data collected during the time England went into a second lockdown (5 November 2020), showed a drop in people aged 16 to 29 years who reported this physical contact, from 32% the previous week.

[Details](#)

NCISH

Suicide in England since the COVID-19 pandemic -early figures from real-time surveillance

Suicide data for 2020 covering several parts of England, total population 9 million. The month by month figures show no rise in suicide following lockdown.

[Details](#)

Centre for Mental Health

Mental health for all? The final report of the Commission for Equality in Mental Health

The final report from the Commission for Equality in Mental Health has called for action from local and central government to reverse 'stark' inequalities in mental health.

The report finds that mental health inequalities mirror wider economic and social inequalities, meaning that many groups of people face two or three times the risk of mental ill health.

[Details](#)

Future Spaces Foundation

Kinship in the city

This report explores the impact of urban loneliness and ideas for reshaping the built environment to improve social cohesion. Produced as part of the Future Spaces Foundation's Vital Cities programme, it builds on an existing body of research into the building blocks of dynamic, socially sustainable cities where individuals and communities thrive.

[Details](#)

What Works Wellbeing

How has Covid-19 and the associated lockdown measures affected mental health and wellbeing in the UK?

This briefing provides insights into how mental health conditions have changed and which risk factors need to be recognised when supporting people's mental health.

[Details](#)

House of Commons Public Accounts Committee

Digital transformation in the NHS

This report says the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the NHS have a long way to go to deal with, and move on from, the legacy of their track record of failed IT programmes over almost two decades. It finds that the DHSC has not achieved its target to achieve 'a paperless NHS', which has now

been watered down and moved back by six years, and expresses concerns that the DHSC and NHS bodies now risk repeating the mistakes that led to those failures and wasting taxpayers' money.

[Details](#)

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Covid-19 and disruptions to the health and social care of older people in England

This briefing looks at the changes to the delivery of routine health care in England due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To prioritise access to hospital beds, staff and ventilators for Covid-19 patients, and to minimise the risk of infection for other patients, much routine health care was postponed or replaced with online or phone consultations. In addition, many would-be patients declined to seek care in the first place. This briefing aims to quantify these disruptions to care among older people in England in the early stages of the pandemic, and to examine who was most affected.

[Details](#)

Health Services Management Centre (HSMC)

Shifting shapes: how can local care markets support personalised outcomes?

The Care Act 2014 gave local authorities in England a legal duty to shape social care markets to provide a variety of quality care and support. The HSMC was asked by the Department of Health and Social Care to look at different approaches to shaping care markets, and which work best.

[Details](#)

Reform

The state of the state 2020-21: government in the pandemic and beyond

In its ninth edition, this annual collaboration with Deloitte explores people's perceptions of public services, spending after the pandemic and the government's 'levelling up' agenda. The report is informed by a national survey, conducted by Ipsos MORI, and interviews with 40 public sector leaders.

[Details](#)

Health Foundation

Elective care in England: Assessing the impact of COVID-19 and where next

Article highlights that the pandemic's full impact on elective care in England is still emerging, but that it has had a stark effect on the waiting list at national level and that at the next spending review the government should consider efforts to tackle the backlog.

[Details](#)

NHS Digital

Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April 2019 to March 2020

Data show of 221,678 people setting a quit date, 114,153 were successful. Quitting success increased with age; 41% under 18 and up to 56% aged 60 and over. Also 45% of 13,779 pregnant women who set a quit date successfully quit.

[Details](#)

National Diabetes Audit - Care Processes and Treatment Targets, 1st Quarter, January to June 2020

This mid-year release for the first extraction of National Diabetes Audit 2020-21 data, shows progress to date covering the period 1 January to 30 June 2020 for English GP practices.

[Details](#)

National Diabetes Audit Non-Diabetic Hyperglycaemia, 2018- 2019, Diabetes Prevention Programme

This report for England primarily uses data collected alongside the National Diabetes Audit (NDA) for the period January 2018 to March 2019 inclusive, and data generated by providers of the Diabetes Prevention Programme relating to referrals up to March 2019 inclusive.

[Details](#)

Northern Health Science Alliance

Covid-19 and the Northern Powerhouse: tackling inequalities for UK health and productivity

According to this report, the north of England's economy has been hit harder than the rest of the country's during the Covid-19 pandemic. It estimates the economic cost of the increased mortality in the north during the pandemic at £6.86 billion, and the reductions in mental health in the region due to the pandemic could cost the UK economy up to £5 billion in reduced productivity.

[Details](#)

Policy Exchange

Saving a lost decade: how a new deal for public health can help build a healthier nation

This report reveals the wider consequences of inaction on health improvement and prevention. It argues that the decision to transfer health protection functions from Public Health England to a new National Institute for Health Protection presents an opportunity to reimagine and design a better public health system.

[Details](#)

The King's Fund

The digital revolution: eight technologies that will change health and care

The Covid-19 pandemic has seen many health and care services turn to digital technology to continue meeting patients' needs. Explainer covers eight key innovations and their potential to transform health and care delivery, beyond remote consultations

[Details](#)

Nuffield Trust

Huge winter battle ahead for the NHS

With more people waiting over a year for hospital treatment than at any time since 2008, John Appleby said that the NHS's position before its traditionally busiest months is a real concern. The service has fallen short of the tall order of recovering all non-Covid activity between the two waves of the pandemic

[Details](#)

Coronavirus deaths: another bleak milestone

As the UK this week recorded its highest number of Covid-19 deaths since early May, Sarah Scobie said that we are now seeing the fallout from the summer's looser social distancing restrictions. The number of deaths recorded in hospitals is above the five-year average for the second week in a row.

[Details](#)

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