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| Week 28 March – 3 April 2022 |

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| **A message from Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**  Over the last two years of life in the midst of a pandemic, many of us have experienced a wide range of emotions, including anxiety, fear and grief, not least those of us working in or with the care sector as we watched residents, colleagues, friends and families succumb to COVID-19. Now, as our world beating vaccination programme continues to drive up immunity, these emotions are giving way to more positive feelings of hope, optimism and cautious relief the worst is hopefully behind us.  This makes it the right time to reassess how we target support for the care workforce, whilst continuing to protect their health and wellbeing and those in their care. No matter how effective vaccines and other protections may be, there will always be individuals and communities at higher risk than others. Therefore, as we learn to live with COVID-19, I have set out our strategy to make sure testing is targeted to protect those who need it most.    Free asymptomatic lateral flow testing will be provided to staff in adult social care services during periods of high prevalence, as well as for a small number of care home visitors and visiting professionals who provide personal care. All other visitors will no longer need to test. In addition, free asymptomatic testing will be provided to care homes all year for outbreak testing for staff and residents, and for residents upon admission.    I also want to reassure anyone living and working in care settings that the government will continue to support the sector with vaccinations and personal protective equipment (PPE) as circumstances demand. These measures will work alongside updated guidance informed by best practice and lessons learned. At the same time, there will be no let-up in our viral vigilance. Plans are already in place to rapidly scale up of testing capabilities should new health threats emerge. We will continue to work closely with NHS services and local authorities to target support where needed.    In the meantime, I encourage all care managers to support staff to get their COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses, as and when they are eligible. Older eligible adult care home residents should also be supported to receive their Spring boosters.    Targeted testing and comprehensive vaccination, whilst critical to ending this pandemic, are not enough in and of themselves. Enhanced infection prevention and control (IPC) must be the enduring mantra for all care and health professionals. If you haven’t registered already, I urge you to join the IPC Champions Network. Endorsed by our Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, Deborah Sturdy, the network can help you become an IPC guru, share vital knowledge with others, and save lives.    I hope these changes provide comfort, confidence and clarity as we enter this new phase of our relationship with the virus. Most of all, I want you to know we could have not achieved such enormous progress if it hadn’t been for your bravery, dedication and resolve.    Thanks in no small part to you, we are once again becoming a healthier, happier and more open society. This government and our sector partners will support you to protect these hard won successes and keep you safe, well and able to do what you do best: make a positive difference to so many lives. |

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| Week 28 March – 3 April 2022 | |  | |
|  | | **Social Care Day of Remembrance and Reflection - 17 March 2022**  Paying tribute to the dedication of social care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, to reflect on the challenges of the pandemic and to remember those we sadly lost during this time.  Sadly, an estimated 969 social care workers in England tragically lost their lives between March 2020 and September 2021.  It was a day to say thank you and well done to the people working in social care who played a vital role in keeping our communities as safe and well as possible during difficult times, and to set aside time to specially acknowledge the important work that our social care sector does.  The day was organised by Skills for Care and during this event a deeply moving film was shown that really drove home the impact of the pandemic on the people who work in care. The event was a great reminder about why the social care workforce is so amazing. | |
| Watch the video here: -  <https://vimeo.com/686722012?utm_campaign=13074855_SCIELine%2029%20March%202022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SOCIAL%20CARE%20INSTITUTE%20FOR%20EXCELLENCE%20&utm_sfid=0030f000038iHZfAAM&utm_role=Manager> | | | |
| Date | Topic | | Website |
| 28 March | Government guidance  **COVID-19 vaccination: resources for children aged 5 to 11 years**  Added link to view the guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years British Sign Language video.  Government guidance  **COVID-19 vaccination: British Sign Language resources**  Added the British sign language video guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years. | | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=477e28cb-96a0-4f44-80cd-96402f206a74&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-british-sign-language-resources?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=20efe3bb-c0dd-4c30-980c-3da3d5a6f6bc&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 29 March | Government guidance – new publication  **COVID-19: adult surveillance**  Description of UKHSA adult surveillance programmes for COVID-19. | | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-adult-surveillance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=63789d2a-2f07-4856-ac85-1101d72e95c9&utm_content=daily> |

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| Date | Topic | Website |
| 29 March | **Coronavirus and self-isolation after testing positive in England: 28 February to 8 March 2022**  Behaviour of individuals advised to self-isolate after testing positive for COVID-19, from the COVID Test and Trace Cases Insights Survey. Includes information on the impact of self-isolation on well-being and finances | <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/healthandwellbeing/bulletins/coronavirusandselfisolationaftertestingpositiveinengland/28februaryto8march2022> |
| 30 March | Government News story  **Changes to COVID-19 testing in England from 1 April**  Information on who can access free coronavirus (COVID-19) tests from 1 April 2022 and how to get them. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-covid-19-testing-in-england-from-1-april?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=818d93cc-d6fd-4692-ac16-3112838ba560&utm_content=daily> |
| 31 March | Health management and Policy Alert from The King’s Fund library  **Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2021: Results from the British Social Attitudes survey**  This analysis of the 2021 British Social Attitudes Survey (undertaken by The King's Fund and the Nuffield Trust) finds that public satisfaction with how the NHS runs has fallen sharply to 36 per cent – an unprecedented drop of 17 percentage points from 2020 and the lowest level of satisfaction recorded since 1997. Despite this, support for the principles of the NHS is as strong as ever. The overwhelming majority of people expressed high levels of support for the founding principles of the NHS when asked if they should still apply in 2021: that it is free of charge when you need it (94 per cent), primarily funded through taxation (86 per cent) and available to everyone (84 per cent). | <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/public-satisfaction-nhs-social-care-2021?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13101735_NEWSL_HMP%202022-04-01&dm_i=21A8,7STD3,2NYYES,VTKP2,1> |
| 31 March | Royal College of Physicians (RCP) **Personalised prescribing: using pharmacogenomics to improve patient outcomes**  This report (from an RCP and British Pharmacological Society joint working party) explains how a type of testing, known as pharmacogenomic testing, should be deployed across the NHS to ensure all patients have an equal chance of being prescribed a medicine at a dose that is likely to be safe and effective for them, with minimal side effects. There can be enormous variation from person to person in whether a medicine works, whether it causes serious side effects and what dose is needed. The report states that testing patients for genetic variations that affect how their body will respond to common medicines must be integrated fully, fairly and swiftly into the NHS. | <https://kingsfundmail.org.uk/21A8-7STD3-2NYYES-4R4P61-1/c.aspx> |
| Date | Topic | Website |
| 31 March | HM Government **SEND Review: right support, right place, right time** The government is seeking views on this Green Paper about the changes they want to make to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system in England. The consultation closes at 11.45pm on 1 July 2022.  Respond to the consultation <https://consult.education.gov.uk/send-review-division/send-review-2022/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13101735_NEWSL_HMP%202022-04-01&dm_i=21A8,7STD3,2NYYES,VTPAT,1> | Green paper <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063620/SEND_review_right_support_right_place_right_time_accessible.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13101735_NEWSL_HMP%202022-04-01&dm_i=21A8,7STD3,2NYYES,VTPAS,1> |
| 31 March | Government Research and analysis **The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescent mental health** Analysis of large-scale trial data to assess the impact of the pandemic on adolescent mental health and wellbeing. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-impact-of-the-covid-19-pandemic-on-adolescent-mental-health?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1aee6802-0c71-4234-9710-ced7b867f0ee&utm_content=daily> |
| 31 March | New Government Guidance  **Infection prevention and control in adult social care: COVID-19 supplement**  Sets out how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in adult social care settings in England. This guidance applies from 4 April 2022. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/infection-prevention-and-control-in-adult-social-care-covid-19-supplement?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=93bd7ed5-b56a-4173-b0a8-4eb49a890168&utm_content=daily> |
| 31 March | Government guidance  **Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for adult social care services**  Outlines the COVID-19 testing available for staff, residents and visitors for all adult social care services.  Added COVID-19 testing in adult social care guidance. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-adult-social-care-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=9d4caa86-2b9c-46a1-bfd6-6eb8410ab2f5&utm_content=daily> |
| 31 March | Government News story  **National flu and COVID-19 surveillance reports published**  Weekly national influenza and coronavirus (COVID-19) report, COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-reports-published?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0447543a-8560-40fa-81a0-754b8fdaffdd&utm_content=daily> |

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| Date | Topic | Website |
| 31 March | Research and analysis  **Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines adverse reactions**  A weekly report covering adverse reactions to approved COVID-19 vaccines | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=dc8e4577-bf04-428d-adb7-fc53eb77f4b3&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 31 March | CQC  **Restraint, segregation and seclusion review: Progress report publishes**  On 25 March we published a progress report following up on our Out of Sight report published in March 2020.Looking at the use of restraint, seclusion and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autistic people.  Since the Out of Sight report published in March 2020 none of the recommendations have been fully achieved. More action is needed to ensure people with a learning disability, autistic people and people with mental ill health get the right care at the right time.  Alongside the progress report, we have published a blog in which Debbie Ivanova, Deputy Chief Inspector — People with a learning disability and autistic people, and Jemima Burnage, Deputy Chief Inspector and Mental Health Lead, update on what has changed just under a year and a half on since CQC’s Out of Sight report published in 2020.  We also produced a podcast with guests Julie, mother of an autistic son and co-founder of Rightful Lives, Amanda, who has lived experience, and Debbie Ivanova, discussing the key themes of the report. Listen to the podcast to find out more. | <https://www.cqc.org.uk/publications/themes-care/restraint-segregation-seclusion-review-progress-report-march-2022> |
| 1 April | Results from the British Social Attitudes survey  **Public satisfaction with the NHS and social care in 2021:** | <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/public-satisfaction-nhs-social-care-2021?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=13105425_NEWSL_The%20Weekly%20Update%202022-04-01&utm_content=leading_button&dm_i=21A8,7SW7L,2NYYES,VTWXG,1> |
| 1 April | Government News story  **New guidance sets out how to live safely with COVID-19**  The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has today published updated guidance to support the next stage of the COVID-19 pandemic. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-guidance-sets-out-how-to-live-safely-with-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=bb344642-a21b-43fc-9073-9f768eea4c8e&utm_content=daily> |
| Date | Topic | Website |
| 1 April | Government guidance  **Using the NHS COVID Pass to demonstrate COVID-19 status**  Updated to reflect that the domestic NHS COVID Pass letter is no longer available. Updated to no longer encourage high-risk events and venues to check COVID status as a condition of entry. Merged with guidance on medical exemptions and guidance for organisations wanting to use the NHS COVID Pass. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-covid-pass?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=dc3a01b4-36f1-45b3-a9b0-7256b59ce497&utm_content=daily> |
| 1 April | Government guidance - new publication  **People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19**  Guidance for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19, or a positive test result for COVID-19.  Government guidance - new publication  **Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19**  Guidance for living safely with respiratory infections, including coronavirus (COVID-19).  Government guidance – new publication  **Reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace**  Public health principles for reducing the spread of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, in the workplace. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3a615d8c-ae10-4b5b-b155-6d92418a2b4a&utm_content=daily>  <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c985690b-06a8-41e9-b5e7-0c181752e812&utm_content=daily>  <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reducing-the-spread-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19-in-the-workplace?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=fba21f64-9a04-44de-ae6b-dbe17f2621bf&utm_content=daily> |
| 1 April | Government guidance update  **COVID-19: guidance on protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable**  Updated guidance. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=3411441d-4029-4563-baf6-a830dd0e2245&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 1 April | Government Research and analysis  **COVID-19 variants: genomically confirmed case numbers**  Genomically confirmed case numbers for SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and variants under investigation.  Added data up to 30 March 2022. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-variants-genomically-confirmed-case-numbers?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e1d1714d-70a8-44c0-bf89-ca988ab9eb23&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |

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| Date | Topic | Website |
| 1 April | Government Collection  **Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance**  Added 'People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19', 'Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19' and 'COVID-19: managing healthcare staff with symptoms of a respiratory infection'. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c7f83404-b1ef-438a-aea1-c0fb66cf6d67&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 1 April | Government guidance  **Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing for homecare workers**  Guidance on regular asymptomatic rapid lateral flow testing for staff in registered homecare agencies.  Added information regarding new COVID-19 testing in adult social care guidance. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers-information-for-agencies?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=91b37b8e-a4c7-463b-81d9-bcecb3d0db44&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 1 April | Guidance  **The R value and growth rate**  The R range for England is 1.1. to 1.2 and the growth rate range for England is +1% to +4% per day as of 25 March 2022.  Government guidance  **R value and growth rate: statement of voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics**  Updated the HTML attachment to reflect the new fortnightly release schedule from 1 April 2022. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=445d0e66-8cb0-4643-b1cf-603890ff13ff&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history>  <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/r-value-and-growth-rate-statement-of-voluntary-compliance-with-the-code-of-practice-for-statistics?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=9a8d5e55-4312-42b9-a70d-21ae1425b05d&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
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