

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT (SGoRR)

CORONAVIRUS SITUATION REPORT 41

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Issue headline: CARE HOMES	BRAG status: Red
What is the current situation? <p>Of the 962 deaths reported by NRS to week ending 12th April, 237 or 25% have occurred in care homes. We are likely to see increasing instances as Covid-19 takes effect. There has already been extensive media coverage, including on how instances are being monitored. In addition, we have seen a surge in queries around access to hospital for care home residents, with MSPs and MPs writing to Ministers on behalf of constituents.</p>	Lead policy area: Health – CHSC Directorate Social care support division
What are the current impacts? What impacts are anticipated? <p>NRS figures, published on 15 April, show that 25% of all Covid-19 deaths in Scotland have occurred in care homes. This total is much higher than in England and Wales where the latest ONS statistics show deaths in care homes up to 3rd April (week 14) as being 5%. The NRS figures, however, are more recent than the latest published ONS statistics.</p> <p>As of 14 April, the Care Inspectorate, has received 446 death notifications from 159 adult homes across 29 Local Authorities, an increase of 68 since 13 April. Caution should be used in the use of these numbers and they should not be used publicly.</p>	
What is being done? <p>All of these deaths have been reported to the Care Inspectorate (CI) and all appropriate measures are in place. CI are monitoring notifications of deaths and outbreaks on a daily basis and are contacting all care homes and care at home services on their caseload. CI are requesting updates from those services that have not made notifications about the current situation on staffing and COVID-19 response.</p> <p>There were 1,295 infectious disease notifications in 433 care homes, an increase of 86 suspected cases since 13 April. The CI is under pressure to release figures on outbreak notifications, however these are unreliable. Before publishing any figures on cases, SG will work with CI to ensure the figures are robust. Productive discussions were held 13 April with CI where we emphasised urgency of improving data collection and a number of steps were agreed that will see additional measures taken. These will be developed over the course of this week.</p> <p>We are in close contact with CI to understand how Covid-19 is affecting the delivery of social care. A RAG rating is being set up for care services to provide support where and when required, based on real-time intelligence. Linked to that, we will be matching up the potential supply of staff coming through the NES hub to ensure a more joined up offer of support to care service providers. This is a new development and is being worked at, at pace, but is not fully worked up as yet.</p> <p>An FM-led deep dive on care homes was held 14 April. An action plan is being drawn up urgently including the interim CMO letter to care homes, improved information flows, an enhanced focus on prevention and more support for care homes for example on staffing, PPE and testing.</p> <p>In discussions between FM, Cab Sec and Interim CMO, it has been agreed that while it may not be clinically required – for public confidence – we will move to a system where any symptomatic patient in a care home will be tested.</p>	
What is the public communications approach? <p>No specific public communications approach other than maintaining contact with SG comms colleagues and Care Inspectorate. There has been extensive media coverage. FM expected to highlight NRS rather than Care Inspectorate data as source of numbers of deaths in care homes.</p>	
Is further support required? <p>Continue to work closely with Care Inspectorate. Urgent consideration being given to short term reinforcing of Care Inspectorate and more general resourcing of social care, which is under multiple new pressures</p>	

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