

Press release

Embargo: until 00.01 hours on 4th June 2020

NEW DATA: Detailed view of Covid-19 testing for care home residents and staff in England (up to the end of 1st June)

Testing in care homes is “still far too slow” as lockdown is eased in England

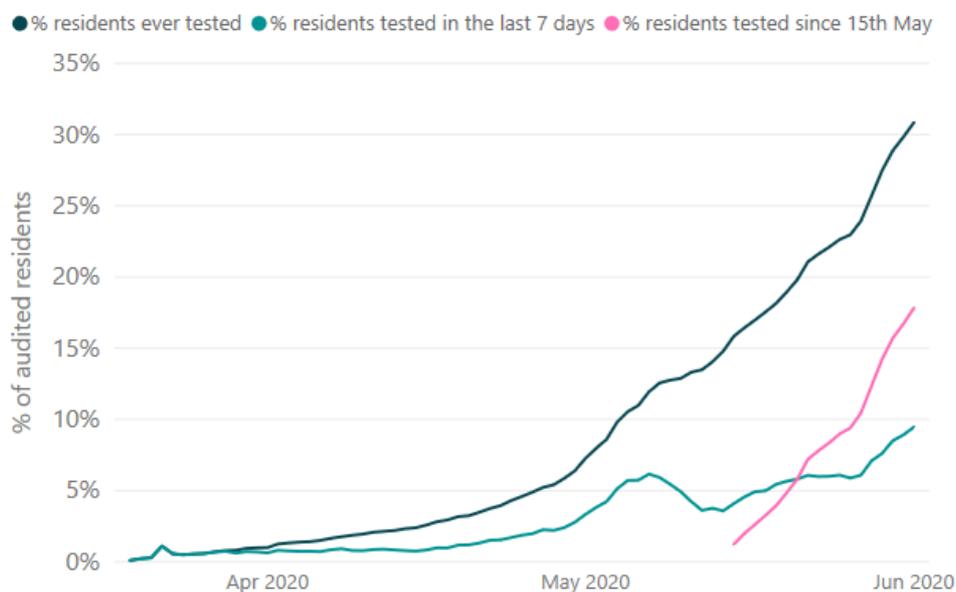
Today we report that in England, just 18% of residents and 15% of care home staff have been tested since 15 May when the government pledged to Covid-19 test “every resident and every member of staff in our elderly care homes in England between now and early June”

9% of residents and 8% of care home staff were tested in the 7 days up to 1st June

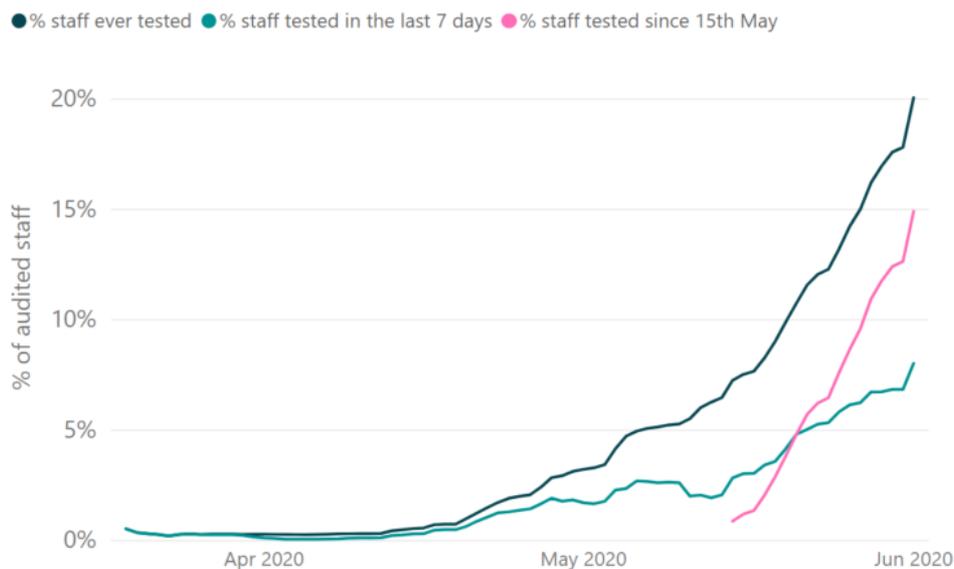
57% of care homes have not had any staff members tested at any stage and 33% of care homes have not had any residents tested at any stage

This disparity in testing regimes evident in the data suggests care homes are receiving mixed messages about how to carry out testing and would benefit from stronger and more consistent local guidance

Percentage of residents tested for Covid-19



Percentage of staff members tested for Covid-19



If quoting this data please note: This new research comes from The Data Analysis Bureau and is based on anonymised data from Person Centred Software, one of the leading suppliers of near real time management information systems to the care home sector.

This analysis is conducted by The Data Analysis Bureau (T-DAB) based on anonymised data from Person Centred Software. It can be updated daily and include data on testing for carers in the residential setting, and residents. Updates, interactive dashboards, and additional data can be found at t-dab.com/care-home-covid-data/

Simon Papworth, co-founder and director of Person Centred Software, said: “The government’s test and track initiative is unproven and there are mixed messages being received by care homes about the effectiveness of testing. The commitment to testing by the government is not being achieved and care homes remain more at risk than necessary as a result. The impact of Covid-19 on care homes has reached mainstream media, but the help they need to carry out the vital services they perform remains elusive.”

Simon Briscoe, Director of T-DAB said: “Testing has picked up in the last few days for both staff and residents and the increase in the rate is heartening. That said, having tested 15% of staff and 18% of residents since 15 May, the government will clearly miss its target to test everyone in care homes by early June. With so many links in the chain of testing from care home staff, local health officials, a website and test centres, it was always going to be a struggle.”

Eric Topham, CEO of T-DAB said: “The dataset that PCS have is incredibly rich and provides a level of detail that does not exist in public health organisations’ own reporting systems. It is collected digitally and in real time, offering an insight view not available to the CQC and ONS. The analytics that can be offered for monitoring and prediction of trends, would provide a vital tool in closely coordinating the response to Covid-19 in care homes, particularly in anticipation of a possible second wave.”

T-DAB is a data science, data analytics, and data engineering innovation agency, based in London's Shoreditch, specializing in delivering cutting edge data analytics and machine learning driven applications, helping clients to understand their data and discover new insights. T-DAB collaborate extensively with both private and academic partners. T-DAB is driven to further the use of data and AI for good. <https://t-dab.com/>

Person Centred Software is one of the leading suppliers of near real time management information systems to the care home sector. Its digital point of care recording system is used for 50,000 service users across more than 1,800 care providers in the UK. There are an average of 50 care actions recorded per service user per day (2.7 million records a day), which evidence the detail of the care people receive. Person Centred Software's digital care system, Mobile Care Monitoring, reduces paperwork and gives carers more time to care. Person Centred Software's philosophy is person-centred; providing benefits to everyone involved in care by delivering exceptional tools.

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Notes for Editors:

Data

The data above relates to the period from 18th March up to and including 1st June 2020. There is no equivalent up to date information on the sector as a whole because more than half of the homes have no detailed, timely or automated data collection.

The graphs in this release show the Covid-19 testing of care staff and residents as a percentage of the population for which a Person Centred Software Mobile Care Monitoring (MCM) Covid-19 audit was undertaken. The dataset for analysis includes 13,000 care givers and 32,000 residents from care homes across England. This is a sub-sample of the total care homes in the MCM system. In order for a care giver to be included within the observational group, they must have had a Covid-19 audit form filled out in the MCM software. This data covers a minority of care homes but more than any other provider. Given the geographic spread and size of the Person Centred Software client base, there is no reason to believe that the sample is not broadly representative of the sector.

- *'% staff ever tested' corresponds to the count of care givers having been recorded as being tested¹ at least once since 18th March, as a proportion of all care givers audited since 18th March.*
- *'% staff tested in the last 7 days' corresponds to the number of care givers recorded as being tested¹ in the 7 preceding days as a proportion of all care givers audited since 18th March.*
- *'% residents ever tested' corresponds to the count of residents having been recorded as being tested² at least once since 18th March, as a proportion of all residents audited since 18th March.*
- *'% residents tested in the last 7 days' corresponds to the number of residents recorded as being tested² in the 7 preceding days as a proportion of all residents audited since 18th March.*

¹ *Care givers (staff) identified as 'being tested' are those for which the status 'in test' or 'tested – confirmed' was recorded in their audit. The date at which either of these appears first, is taken as the date of testing. In the case where there is no record of 'in test', and 'tested – confirmed' appears first this date is used.*

² *Residents identified as 'being tested' are those for which the status 'in test' or 'tested – confirmed' was recorded in their audit. The date at which either of these appears first, is taken as the date of testing. In the case where there is no record of 'in test', and 'tested – confirmed' appears first this date is used.*

Policy

The government *announced on 15 April* that testing will be available for all care home residents with symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-offer-testing-for-everyone-who-needs-one-in-social-care-settings>

The government *announced on 11 May* that “All symptomatic and asymptomatic care home staff and residents in England are now eligible for testing. Testing will be prioritised for care homes that look after the over 65s.” <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-portal-for-care-homes-to-arrange-coronavirus-testing>

At the same time, Minister of State for Care Helen Whately said: “Care homes are on the frontline in the fight against COVID-19 and we are determined that staff have everything they need to keep themselves and their residents safe. Testing is a crucial part of this. It helps prevent and control outbreaks and means steps can be taken to reduce the spread the virus and protect the most vulnerable.” “Testing asymptomatic workers helps prevent and control outbreaks. It means those who test positive can be isolated, reducing the number of people who can spread the virus and protecting the most vulnerable. It also helps to build up a strategic understanding of the prevalence of the virus in local areas and the sector as a whole.”

On 15 May at the daily briefing Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock said: “We will test every resident and every member of staff in our elderly care homes in England between now and early June”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM-2DsysyQI> (7.36 minutes)

ONS has published data relating to deaths in care homes on 15 May: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deaths-involving-covid-19-in-the-care-sector-england-and-wales>

and on 2 June:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/number-of-deaths-in-care-homes-notified-to-the-care-quality-commission-england>

Date: 3rd June 2020

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