

Press release

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## NEW DATA: Detailed view of Covid-19 testing for care home residents in England (up to the end of 18<sup>th</sup> June)

**Testing in care homes “has dramatically increased in the last three weeks”**

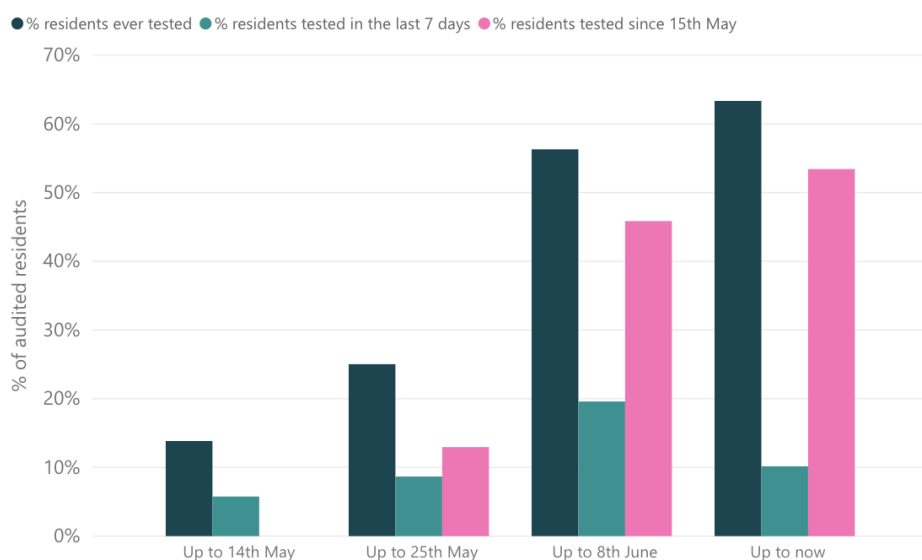
**The proportion of residents tested rose sharply in the last week of May (from 13% on 25 May to 53% now) as the government shipped testing kits to many homes**

**Despite this rise, nearly half (47%) of residents have not 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”**

**It is clear that care homes would benefit from stronger and more consistent local guidance as the failure to achieve universal testing now probably reflects the mixed messages that care homes receive about how to carry out testing, not a shortage of kits**

**Just 15% of care homes have not had any residents tested at any stage**

Percentage of residents 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/](https://t-dab.com/care-home-covid-data/)

Simon Briscoe, Director of T-DAB said: “The rate of testing rose dramatically in the last week of May and into June as the government sent roughly 1 million test kits to care homes. The many links in the chain of testing from care home staff, local health officials, a website and test centres, combined to leave testing rates very low. With barely half of residents having been tested it shows that more than simply issuing testing kits is required to provide care homes with the support and guidance they need.”

Simon Papworth, co-founder and director of Person Centred Software, said: “The government’s test and track initiative is unproven and mixed messages have been received by care homes about the effectiveness of testing. Universal and frequently repeated testing is not yet policy and care homes remain at risk as a result.”

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.

[www.personcentredsoftware.com](https://www.personcentredsoftware.com)

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*Notes for Editors:*

*Data*

*The data above relates to the period up to and including 18<sup>th</sup> 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 roughly 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.*

- *'% residents ever tested' corresponds to the count of residents having been recorded as being tested\* at least once since 1st May, as a proportion of all residents audited since 1st May.*
- *'% residents tested in the last 7 days' corresponds to the number of residents recorded as being tested\* in the 7 preceding days as a proportion of all residents audited since 1st May.*

*\* Residents identified as 'being tested' are those for which the status 'in test', 'tested - confirmed' or 'tested - negative' was recorded in their audit. The date at which any of these appears first, is taken as the date of testing.*

*Policy*

*The government [announced on 15 April](#) that testing will be available for all care home residents with symptoms.*

*[The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#) (6 May, CP239, page 35) said: "The Government .... is offering a COVID-19 test to every staff member and resident in every care home in England, whether symptomatic or not."*

*The government [repeated this on 11 May](#), saying 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."*

*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-2DsyyQI> (7.36 minutes)*

*On [7 June](#) it was announced that "COVID-19 tests offered to every care home for elderly or those with dementia" allowing the government to claim that its target to offer test kits to every care home for over-65s by 6 June has been met. Health and Social Care Secretary Matt Hancock said: "We have now managed*

successfully to offer tests to every care home that is eligible, both for staff testing and for residents to be tested. What that means is that for about three-quarters of a million people living and working in nearly 9,000 eligible care homes, the tests have been delivered.” The government sent test kits to all eligible care homes unless they stated they did not want to receive them.

ONS has published data relating to deaths in care homes on 15 May:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsinvolvingcovid19inthecaresectorenglandandwales>

and on 16 June:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/numberofdeathsincarehomesnotifiedtothecarequalitycommissionengland>

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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