

Dementia

June 2020

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COVID-19

[Research reveals gene role in both dementia and severe Covid-19](#) People with a genetic mutation that increases the risk of dementia also have a greater chance of having severe Covid-19, researchers have revealed.

[Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#) The government has updated its guidance for people who are shielding. People who are shielding remain vulnerable and should continue to take precautions but can now leave their home if they wish, as long as they are able to maintain strict social distancing. If you choose to spend time outdoors, this can be with members of your own household. If you live alone, you can spend time outdoors with one person from another household. Ideally, this should be the same person each time.

[COVID-19: number of outbreaks in care homes – management information](#) Weekly number and percentage of care homes reporting a suspected or confirmed outbreak of COVID-19 to PHE by local authorities, regions and PHE centres. Updated 28 May.

[Safeguarding adults with dementia during the COVID-19 crisis](#) This quick guide aims to support care providers and staff to safeguard people with dementia during the crisis.

Cochrane review

[Video calls for reducing social isolation and loneliness in older people: a rapid review](#) This Cochrane review found that based on the current evidence, they were unable to conclude whether video calls help to reduce loneliness in older people. More studies are needed to investigate this question.

Advice

[Breaking difficult news to a person with dementia](#) This article from Dementia UK offers suggestions for care-givers around delivering bad news to someone living with dementia.

News

[Scandinavian assistive exercise tech helps older people fight the effects of dementia](#) This article describes the use of new technology in Norway designed to help older people with dementia remain active. The Motiview allows older people to revisit familiar places from their childhoods and other important points in their lives through a video projection that plays whilst the person pedals, allowing them to virtually travel through thousands of destinations.

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Studies

[Clinical factors associated with progression to dementia in people with late-life depression: a cohort study of patients in secondary care](#) This study found that in older adults with depression, a higher risk of being subsequently diagnosed with dementia was predicted by higher age, new onset depression, severity of cognitive symptoms and not receiving CBT. Further exploration is needed to determine whether the latter risk factors are responsive to interventions.

[Attitudes and Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Older Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment or Early Stages of Dementia and Their Caregivers: Cross-Sectional Study](#) This study looked at attitudes toward new technologies and the use of smartphones and tablets along with associated factors in people with dementia/mild cognitive impairment and their caregivers. The study found that people with dementia/mild cognitive impairment frequently use smartphones and tablets, but the use of specific apps or software to support memory is limited. Interventions using these technologies are needed to overcome barriers in this population related to sociodemographic characteristics and the lack of enthusiasm for new technologies.

Blog Post

[Untangling frontotemporal dementia](#) This blog post from Alzheimer's Research UK provides explanations and information around frontotemporal dementia to help care-givers and the public better understand the condition.

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