

Dementia

June 2020a

Library & Information Service



COVID-19

[Thousands of people with dementia dying or deteriorating – not just from coronavirus as isolation takes its toll](#) Alzheimer’s Society calls on the Government to put people with dementia at heart of lockdown solution, as devastating impact of isolation on health is revealed. Survey of 128 care homes reveals nearly 80% have seen a deterioration in the health of their residents with dementia due to lack of social contact.

[COVID-19 tests offered to every care home for elderly or those with dementia](#)

Test kits have been offered to every care home for over-65s or those with dementia in England.

[How Clinical Trials Continue During COVID-19](#) While many clinical trials are being impacted by COVID-19 due to self-isolation, social distancing, travel limitations and site closures, fewer interruptions are being felt in the world of the virtual clinical trials and observational studies, many of which exist in the form of an online survey that takes 15 minutes or less to complete.

[Behind the headlines: COVID-19 and dementia](#) This blog shares current knowledge about COVID-19 and dementia, what this might mean for people affected and what Alzheimer’s Research UK is doing to help.

[Risk for older people in the community from coronavirus](#) With guidelines around coronavirus loosening, now is the time to weigh up the factors regarding your own risk, says Dr Elizabeth Webb, so you can make the right decisions for you.

[How to communicate with someone with dementia remotely](#) The current pandemic may mean that family members living apart from someone with dementia find it more difficult to communicate; this can include memories they’ve shared as well as anything which is troubling them. There are also restrictions on visiting someone with dementia in a care home which can increase feelings of isolation not only amongst the residents but the wider family too. This has meant that many families are using telephone contact or Skype/WhatsApp/Facebook/ Zoom calls to check in on their loved ones.

Clinical Answer

[What are the effects of an education and nutrition programme for improving food and fluid intake among people with dementia?](#) Low- to moderate-certainty evidence shows that an education and nutrition programme may result in little to no difference in food and fluid intake (measured by protein intake) and in nutrition status. This type of programme probably worsens mealtime behaviour slightly, and may worsen dementia symptoms slightly.

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Campaign

[Lives on Hold Campaign](#) Lives on Hold, a new awareness campaign, shows how life for carers of people living with dementia is similar to living in lockdown for many months, and often years. As life begins to get back to a new kind of normal for most people, families living with dementia will see little change.

Resource

[Dementia: a whole life approach – A resource for creating better lives](#) The Life Changes Trust has launched an online boxset of 5 publications exploring a whole-life approach to dementia. The titles available are:

- Human Rights and Dementia
- Community and Dementia
- Independence, Confidence and Support
- Peer Support and Dementia
- Information, Awareness, and Training

Films

[People with dementia produce powerful collection of short films](#) The films are about memory, stigma, word-finding problems, difficulties with spatial awareness and perception, intertwined with tales of mermaids, super- powers, music, sleep, horses and poets.

Radio

[Music for Dementia launches m4d Radio](#) The Music for Dementia campaign has launched m4d Radio – a free internet radio station created for people living with dementia and their carers.