

Case study on health and social care interventions during the pandemic

The Croatian Institute of Public Health, like many other government institutions, issued guidelines related to people who are cared for in institutions within the social care system. This was of vital importance in helping to mitigate the damaging effects of the Covid-19 pandemic because it greatly aided this sector in having the correct protocols and information necessary for the workforce to protect themselves and their clients.

These recommendations involved visits, procedures for isolation, personal protective equipment for staff, triage, administrative and engineering controls. These practices should be implemented in all care homes. They have been around for many decades as infection prevention and control and have been modified according to the characteristics of the coronavirus. Support was received from public health institutes at local levels to assist care homes.

Please reflect on the following questions:

- What were the benefits of the closure of care homes to external visitors?
- What were the benefits of the closure of care homes to residents and formal caregivers?
- What were the damaging effects for older people in care homes who were not allowed to have visitors?
- What challenges did this imply for the professionals in these units?
- What groups of the care home residents (and their relatives) were especially hard hit?
- What measures were implemented to maintain contact with care home residents?
- Do you agree with the priority status of older people in being vaccinated?
- Should vaccination of care home staff be compulsory?
- What lessons can be learned in this context from the Covid-19 experience?