

# Appendix 1: Lockdown and Other Restrictions (2b)

## Lockdown and Restrictions – Summary of the Impact on Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Decisions concerning lockdown and restrictions on movement first took effect with the introduction of self-isolation measures on 15 March 2020, followed by school closures on 19 March and lockdown measures on 23 March 2020. A first phase of easing began in June 2020, although relaxation of quarantines for international arrivals occurred slowly over the autumn and winter, and restrictions were tightened again in the winters of 2020 and 2021. Decisions concerning lockdown likely had a disproportionate impact on refugee and asylum seekers in several important ways.

First, lockdown decisions had an outsize **impact on refugees' and asylum seekers' ability to travel**, which in turn had financial and safety implications. Although remote working was encouraged where possible, refugees are more likely to be employed in **jobs that require physical presence at a specific location**, exposing them to a higher risk of illness. UK and international restrictions on cross-border travel also impacted refugees and asylum seekers; **the closure of borders and suspension of refugee resettlement programmes** had a significant impact on international refugees' and asylum seekers' ability to safely seek refuge in Scotland. For refugee and asylum seekers already present in Scotland, such restrictions impacted **their ability for family reunification**, in which refugees with approved status can bring family members to join them in their new country.

Refugees' and asylum seekers' **living conditions** affected their experience of lockdown restrictions. Refugees and asylum seekers who live in the community are more likely to be in poor-quality, overcrowded accommodation which makes self-isolation or quarantine at home challenging; or even to be homeless. While considerable efforts were made, early in the pandemic, to house people who were homeless, the challenges of isolating in cramped and overcrowded accommodation remained.

At various stages of the pandemic, different restrictions applied in different regions of Scotland. These **regional differences in restrictions** would have disproportionately impacted refugees and asylum seekers, as this population lives mostly in and around Glasgow where the bulk of such additional restrictions were implemented.

**Communication and language barriers concerning lockdown** and movement restrictions also would have impacted refugee and asylum seekers. The channels of communication to reach this population would have required specific consideration and use of channels and materials (e.g., community leaders, translations) outside those appropriate for the general population. Although key documents were translated into a number of different languages, it is unclear how fully communications around lockdown and restrictions reflected refugees' and asylum seekers' language and literacy needs, or how much consideration was given to addressing this throughout the pandemic.

School closures also impacted refugee and asylum seeker children, for whom remote schooling would have posed particular challenges. These challenges may be particularly acute for unaccompanied children, who would have experienced both a lack of normalisation and routine provided by the school environment, as well the difficulty of living without

relatives. Language barriers would have been more prevalent in the online environment, as would accessing the technology and internet required to participate in school remotely. As noted above, refugees and asylum seekers are more likely to live in crowded housing and so finding a space conducive to studying could have been difficult. These challenges have implications for these children's **educational achievement and also for their mental health, with a higher risk of social isolation.** This is particularly important for this population of children, who may have already experienced trauma before or during their migration journey to Scotland and are at a higher risk for mental health vulnerabilities.

Please note that in these annotations, following the initial decision to introduce social isolation and lockdown we have opted not to repeat the same concerns each time restrictions were tightened or eased. However, the challenges we have noted alongside the initial decision (e.g., impacts of shared or cramped accommodation, homelessness) would continue to apply to these subsequent decisions. Finally, although COVID-19 mortality milestones have been marked as not applicable ("N/A"), it is important to note that **the impact of mortality and morbidity from COVID-19 was uneven**, and likely disproportionately impacted refugee and asylum seekers due to the numerous facets of precarity of their everyday lives.

# Lockdown and Restrictions: Timeline 2020 to 2021

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**Key events (with dates):** 15 March 2020 – **Key Decision:** Scotland moves from the Containment to the Delay phase

- **Topic:** Containment to delay
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) -implications of move to delay phase: CMO letter 15 March 2020](#)  
SAGE meetings and papers: [SAGE 15 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 13 March 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** SAGE 15 – excerpt from minutes:  
23. It was noted that Singapore had had an effective ‘contain phase’ but that now new cases had appeared.  
24. SAGE was unanimous that measures seeking to completely suppress spread of COVID-19 will cause a second peak. SAGE advises that it is a near certainty that countries such as China, where heavy suppression is underway, will experience a second peak once measures are relaxed.  
33. Community testing is ending today – which will increase the pace of testing (and delivery of results) for intensive care units, hospital admissions, targeted contact tracing for suspected clusters of cases and healthcare workers. This includes faster confirmation of negative results.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** In this phase, all symptomatic individuals were asked to self-isolate at home. This would have been particularly challenging for refugees and asylum seekers living in shared or overcrowded accommodation, or who were homeless. Additionally, SAGE tasked its Moral and Ethical Advisory Group [MEAG] with

considering the ethics of household isolation, given that it would heighten the risk to other occupants.

SAGE discusses behavioural science approaches and considers encouraging individuals to help manage their own risk ahead of government measures; but “recognizes that taking individual measures may be more feasible for some than others.”

**Key events (with dates):** 15 March 2020 - **Key Decision: Restrictions:** Scottish Government advises organisers to cancel or postpone all mass events of 500 people or more, indoors or outdoors.

- **Topic:** Cancellation of mass events
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** **Large gathering guidance** (Scottish Government news release, 15 March 2020)  
SAGE meetings and papers: **SAGE 15 minutes: Coronavirus (COVID-19) response, 13 March 2020**  
**The impact of banning sporting events and other leisure activities on the COVID-19 epidemic, 11 March 2020**  
**SPI-M-O: Consensus statement on public gatherings, 11 March 2020 - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))**  
**SPI-B: Insights on public gatherings, 12 March 2020**  
**NERVTAG: Distance, time, handshakes, 12 March 2020**
- **Commentary:** This was advice issued by the Scottish government that all indoor and outdoor events involving > 500 people should be cancelled. At this point in the pandemic, the Scottish Government did not yet have the powers to order cancellation of events. [Only the Government news release is available. Guidance no longer available on Scottish government website].  
It is not clear on what basis this decision was taken; however closure of mass events was being considered by the Scientific Emergency Group for Emergencies (SAGE) at this time. The arguments for and against this cancellation of mass events were finally balanced. On the one hand,

modelling suggested that the direct impact of closing mass events would be limited. On the other hand other factors should also be considered, including public expectations, the impact on public confidence of divergence from measures being taken in other countries and supporting social distancing measures that are taking place anyway (such as people opting to stay away from mass events). There were also considerable unknowns, such as the impact on transmission of changed behaviours (e.g. would closing mass outdoor sports gatherings result in more people congregating in pubs?)

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 19 March 2020 – Key Decision: Restrictions: Announcement that schools are expected to close by the end of the week

- **Topic:** School closure
- **Main body/persons involved:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills John Swinney MSP;  
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs Michael Russell MSP
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
**Coronavirus (COVID19) – impact on education: Deputy First Minister speech**, 19 March 2020  
**School and nursery closures** (Scottish Government news release, 18 March 2020, trailing this speech)  
**Health and Sport Committee documents: Legislative consent memorandum, Coronavirus Bill**  
SAGE meetings and papers: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) response, 16 March 2020**  
**SPI-M-O: Consensus view on behavioural and social interventions, 16 March 2020**

**Impact of non- pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand, 16 March 2020**

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) intervention strategies, 16 March 2020**

**The impact of aggressively managing peak incidence, 11 March 2020**

**SPI-M-O: Consensus view on the impact of mass school closures, 17 March 2020**

**SAGE 17 minutes: Coronavirus (COVID-19) response, 18 March 2020**

**SPI-M-O: Consensus view on the impact of school closures on COVID-19 - 17 March 2020**

**School closures: note from SPI-B - 17 March 2020** (Paper discussed at SAGE meeting on 17 and 18 March 2020)

**Impact of school closures, 18 March 2020**

**Timing of the introduction of school closure for COVID-19 epidemic suppression, 18 March 2020**

**The impact of adding school closure to other social distance measures, 17 March 2020**

Fol requests:

**School closures: FOI release** published 30 Sep 2020

**COVID-19 impact on Attainment Scotland Fund and school closures: FOI release** published 4 Nov 2020

- **Commentary:** On 18 March 2020 Scottish Government issued a news release, trailing an announcement by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, that schools were expected to close by the end of the week. The news release stated that SAGE were examining new advice which was likely to recommend school closure.

SAGE met on 18 March 2020 and considered evidence from Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Modelling (SPI-M-O) and Scientific Pandemic Influenza Group on Behavioural Science (SPI- B), on the basis of which, SAGE advised that available evidence now supported implementing school

closures on a national level as soon as practicable to prevent NHS intensive care capacity being exceeded.

The Scottish Government identified three priority groups where it was important to mitigate the impacts of school closure: Vulnerable pupils and those in receipt of free school meals

Pupils undertaking coursework and preparing for exams

Key workers including doctors, nurses and emergency service workers who have children.

FoI requests are about Scottish Government powers to close schools; impact of school closures on attainment gap.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Children in refugee and asylum seeker households, and unaccompanied children, were likely to experience particular challenges as a result of school closures. Language barriers, lack of access to digital technology and reliable internet, and lack of space to study in the home, all posed barriers to children's ability to continue with their education, with implications not only for educational progress, but also for mental health and increased social isolation.

The Deputy First Minister's speech recognized the particular need to "support vulnerable children [...] who often rely on school life for hot meals or for a safe, nurturing and supportive environment", and committed to develop specific approaches to support them. Chief Social Work Officers were tasked with identifying and supporting vulnerable children at increased risk.



**Key events (with dates):** 20 March 2020 – Key Decision: Announcement: Restrictions: Scottish Government tells pubs, cafes to close

- **Topic:** Closure of hospitality
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Pubs, cafes and more told to close](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
SAGE meetings and papers: [Seventeenth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 18 March 2020](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 23 March 2020 – Key Decision: Restrictions: Decision to introduce lockdown

- **Topic:** Lockdown
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** [Effective 'lockdown' to be introduced](#) (Scottish Government news release, evening of 23 March 2020)  
FOI requests: [Questions concerning COVID-19 restrictions in Scotland: FOI release](#) published 7 Dec 2020  
[COVID-19 restrictions in places of worship: FOI release](#) published 22 Sep 21  
Scientific evidence syntheses:  
[Curran et al \(2021\) Public Health and Health Systems Impacts of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern](#)  
[Hughes et al \(2021\) Impact of COVID-19 on the Health and Well-being of Informal Caregivers of People with Dementia: A Rapid Systematic Review](#)
- **Commentary:** On 23 March 2020 at 22:24, the Scottish Government issued an announcement with immediate effect to introduce lockdown. This did not come into legal force until

the Coronavirus (2020) Act received Royal Assent and Scottish Ministers made formal declarations for the exercise of powers under schedules 21 and 22 (powers relating to potentially infectious persons and powers relating to events, gatherings and premises in Scotland) on 25 March 2020.

A rapid scoping review focusing on variants of concern, transmission, public health measures, and health systems. Public health measures including lockdowns were identified as being critical in controlling the spread of the virus.

FoI requests are about legality of lockdown; the decision to ban singing.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Lockdown presented particular challenges for low-income households, including refugees and asylum seekers, as it became much harder to access basic necessities at prices they could afford (see the Scottish Refugee Council's explanation of the challenges, [here](#).)

**Key events (with dates):** 16 April 2020 First statutory review of lockdown restrictions

- **Topic:**
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs Michael Russell MSP
- **Relevant documents:** Health and Sport Committee documents:  
[Letter from Cab. Sec. For Constitution, Europe and External Affairs to Convener of Health and Sport Committee](#)
- **Commentary:** Required by law every 21 days. Ministers decided to keep all restrictions, with some minor amendments.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? Yes**
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 23 March 2020.

**Key events (with dates):** 23 April 2020 – Key Decision: Decision-making framework: COVID- 19: A Framework for Decision-Making is published by the Scottish Government. The document sets out the factors that must be considered as the country moves gradually to ease restrictions.

- **Topic:** Framework for decision-making
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework for decision making Looking beyond lockdown** (Scottish government news release)  
News media:  
**Lifting of Scottish lockdown ‘likely to be phased’ (BBC news article, 23 April 2020 – via [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk).)**  
Scottish Government Covid- 19 Advisory Group:  
**<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-13-april-2020/>**  
Scientific evidence synthesis on the social impacts of lockdown:  
**Castaldelli-Maia et al (2020) Investigating the effect of national government physical distancing measures on depression and anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic through meta- analysis and meta- regression**  
**Yen-Hao et al (2020) Social consequences of mass quarantine during epidemics: a systematic review with implications for the COVID-19 response**
- **Commentary:** This framework sets out the values and principles under-pinning decision-making about moving out of lockdown. It recognizes four broad harms: direct harms to health from COVID-19; harms to health and social care

services, with knock-on impacts on capacity to treat non-COVID conditions; negative societal impacts of restrictions (e.g. isolation, disruption to education); economic harms. Document states commitment to work within 4 nation UK framework, but taking distinctive decisions for Scotland if the evidence indicates that this is necessary. The approach to moving out of lockdown will involve incremental rather than all-at-once easing of restrictions, combined with close assessment of the impact of any change on the R number and other key indicators. Close attention will be paid to the impact on equalities. The merits of tailoring options to specific geographical areas, sectors, etc will be assessed. Four key elements to assessment framework:

1. Options for physical distancing measures – easing, maintaining, (re)introducing – are technically assessed using the best available evidence and analysis of their potential benefits and harms to health, the economy, and broader society so as to minimise overall harm and ensure that transmission of the virus is suppressed

2. Potential options – individual and combinations of measures – are assessed for their viability, for example taking account of how easy they are to communicate and understand, likelihood of public compliance, the proportionality of any impact on human rights and other legal considerations.

3. Broader considerations also include equality impacts and consideration of tailoring measures, for example to specific geographies and sectors.

4. Assessments will inform the required reviews of the Coronavirus regulations and collective assessment and decision-making with the UK Government and other Devolved Administrations as appropriate.

A systematic review and meta-analysis on prevalence of depression and anxiety in the global population during the COVID- 19 pandemic and the impact of mitigation strategies on depression and anxiety. Amongst all mitigation strategies,

public transportation closure, especially in Europe, was associated with increased anxiety.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The framework for decision-making recognized the social and economic harms of COVID-19 response measures, as well as the direct harms of the pandemic itself. The framework included a commitment to considering the impact of actions on equalities and human rights. In principle, this allows for any disproportionate impacts of the pandemic & pandemic management measures, on refugees and asylum seekers (among other groups), to be identified and taken into consideration in deciding the way forward.

**Key events (with dates):** 21 May 2020 – Key Decision: Decision-making framework: Publication of COVID- 19 Routemap to take Scotland through and out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Topic:** Routemap
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis**

Relevant evidence synthesis: **National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools. (2021, March 12). Rapid Review Update 1: What are best practices for risk communication and strategies to mitigate risk behaviours?**

FoI requests:

**Scientific evidence which influenced the decision to restrict the opening of gyms: FOI release** published 10 Nov 2020

**Scientific evidence to support the re-opening of certain sectors and activities: FOI release** published 10 Nov 2020

- **Commentary:** Four-phase "route map" for easing lockdown restrictions in Scotland, laying out which restrictions will be relaxed during each phase. Details of plans for Phase 1, including allowing people to meet up outside with people from one other household from 28 May 2020, subject to the number of new cases of COVID-19 continuing to fall. Plans for schools to reopen on 11 August, with a "blended model" of part-time study at school combined with some learning at home.

Evidence synthesis about communication and messaging regarding mitigation of risky behaviours.

FoI request are about the scientific evidence supporting the decision to close gyms and soft play areas.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 23 April 2020. This document also recognizes the unequal impact of the pandemic & pandemic response on "families with low incomes and people who were already experiencing the effects of inequality [including...] minority ethnic groups and some other groups with protected characteristics."

**Key events (with dates):** 28-May-20 Key Milestone: Scotland moves out of lockdown into phase 1

- **Topic:**
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 1: Scotland's route map update**  
Health and Sport Committee correspondence: **Letter from Cab Sec for Constitution, Europe and External Affairs to Convener COVID-19 Committee, 10 May 20**

- **Commentary:** Phase 1 provisions:

- **Seeing family and friends**

- More outdoor activity permitted – such as being able to sit in the park, as long as physically distanced

- Meeting up with another household outdoors, in small numbers (max 8), including in gardens, but with physical distancing required

- **Getting around**

- Consistent with the reopening of workplaces set out in this phase, where home working is not possible businesses and organisations are encouraged to manage travel demand through staggered start times and flexible working patterns. Permitted to travel short distances for outdoor leisure and exercise but advice to stay within a short distance of your local community (broadly within 5 miles) and travel by walk, wheel and cycle where possible.

- International border health measures are introduced

- **Schools, childcare and other educational settings**

- School staff return to schools

- Increased number of children accessing critical childcare provision.

- Re-opening of childminding services and fully outdoor nursery provision

- Transition support available to pupils starting P1 and S1 where possible.

- **Working or running a business**

- Remote working remains the default position for those who can For those workplaces that are reopening, employers should encourage staggered start times and flexible working. Non-essential **outdoor** workplaces with physical distancing resume once relevant guidance agreed.

- Construction – Phases 0-2 of industry restart plan can be implemented. (Industry to consult government before progressing to phase 2).

- Preparing for the safe reopening of the housing market.

- Workplaces resuming in later phases can undertake

preparatory work on physical distancing and hygiene measures.

### **Shopping, eating and drinking out**

Gradual re-opening of drive through food outlets

Garden centres and plant nurseries can reopen with physical distancing. Associated cafes should not reopen at this stage except for takeaway,

### **Sport, culture and leisure activities**

Consistent with the rules and guidance that are applicable to any activity in this phase:

Unrestricted outdoors exercise adhering to distancing measures Non-contact, outdoor activities in your local areas e.g. golf, hiking, canoeing, outdoor swimming, angling.

### **Community and public services**

Gradual resumption of key support services at the community level with physical distancing and hygiene measures

Restarting face to face Children's Hearings with physical distancing Greater direct contact for social work and support services with at risk groups and families with physical distancing and hygiene measures

Access to respite/day care to support unpaid carers and for families with a disabled family member

Household Waste Recycling Centres open

Re-opening of court and tribunal buildings, with limited business and public access

### **Gatherings and occasions**

No public gatherings permitted except for meetings of two households, outdoors and with physical distancing

### **Health and Social Care**

Beginning to safely restart NHS services, covering primary, and community services including mental health.

Phased resumption of some GP services supported by an increase in digital consultations

Roll out the NHS Pharmacy First Scotland service in community pharmacies.

Increase care offered at emergency dental hubs as practices



prepare to open

Restart, where possible, urgent electives previously paused. Resumption of NHS IVF treatment has now been approved in Scotland and we are working with the 4 centres to resume services quickly and safely.

Increase provision of emergency eyecare in the community

We will consider the introduction of designated visitors to care homes.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation / supporting documents:**

In this phase, “remote working remains the default position for those who can”, but some in-person workplaces were beginning to reopen. Refugees are likely to be over-represented in lower-paid jobs where remote work is not an option, and therefore more exposed to the risks of returning to the workplace.

**Key events (with dates):** 08-Jun-20 to 23-Dec-20

Travel restrictions to prevent importation of cases from countries with high prevalence

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf

- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/new-health-measures-for-travellers-to-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-international-travel-measures/>

Health and Sport Committee papers:

**[COVID-19 related Scottish Statutory Instruments – the Health Protection \(Coronavirus\) \(International Travel\) \(Managed Accommodation and Testing etc\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021](#)**

SAGE and related papers: **SAGE 42 – 18-Jun-20**  
**PHE: Investigation into the effectiveness of 'double testing' travellers incoming to the UK for signs of COVID-19, 17 June 2020**  
**Serial testing to minimise false negatives, 16 June 2020**  
Fol requests:  
**COVID 19 hotel quarantine: FOI release** published 24 Aug 21  
**Information regarding quarantine on travellers returning from Portugal: FOI release** published 19 Nov 20  
**COVID-19 Introduction of quarantine: FOI release** published 19 Jan 21  
**Covid-19 international travel quarantine: FOI release** published 15 Jul 21  
**Covid 19 managed isolation and quarantine: FOI release** published 24 Aug 21  
**Number of hotel rooms used for international flight quarantine: FOI release** published 14 April 21  
**Covid-19 mandatory hotel quarantine breakdown: FOI release** published 29 Jun 21  
**Covid-19 hotel quarantine: FOI release** published 3 Aug 21  
**COVID-19 total number of bookings for the Managed Quarantine Services: FOI release** published 14 Oct 21  
**Covid 19 managed isolation and quarantine: FOI review** published 26 Oct 21  
Evidence syntheses: **Nussbaumer-Streit B, et al. Quarantine alone or in combination with other public health measures to control COVID-19: A rapid review. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2020;(4)CD013574.**  
**Burns J et al (2021) International travel-related control measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic: a rapid review**

**National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools.  
Rapid Review: Are any jurisdictions using isolation  
periods other than 14 days in response to COVID-19?  
Hamilton, ON: National Collaborating Centre for Methods  
and Tools; 2020.**

- **Commentary:** With Scotland's relatively low infection rate, importation of new cases from abroad was a significant risk to public health during the summer of 2020. This period saw changes in quarantine policy for travellers based on monitoring of case numbers in countries from where they were travelling. **8 June** - general measures covering all countries (14 days self-isolation for people entering UK from abroad, online passenger locator form prior to travel (contact details and address where self-isolating), spot checks and fines. **25, 30 July, 20 August, 3, 10 September, 1, 15, 22, 29 October, 5, 7, 12, 26 November, 19 December, 9 Jan 2021** - 14 day quarantine (reduced to 10 days from 11 Dec 2020) for specific countries with high levels of virus. Relaxation of restrictions for travellers from specific countries, where risk is judged to be sufficiently low - **8 July, 13, 20 August, 10 September, 1, 15, 22 October, 12, 26 Nov.** Health and Sport Committee papers is an extensive set of documents including correspondence and papers from two evidence sessions – with stakeholders (2 March 2021) and with Cab Sec for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity (9 March 21)  
SAGE 42 - agreed that double testing of travellers could enable quarantining terms of less than 14 days (double testing significantly reduces risk of false negatives). If initial testing is carried out prior to travellers entering the UK, the duration of quarantine in the UK could be shortened further (with the caveat that travellers should self-isolate between testing and travelling). Pre-testing of this kind would require international agreements and common standards.  
Fol requests are about quarantine and managed (hotel) quarantine.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Any asylum seekers or refugees newly entering the UK would have been faced with the same restrictions as any other traveller; and may have faced particular challenges around quarantining – see comments on 15 March 2020.

However, we would also note that refugees and asylum seekers were likely to have been **under-represented** among travellers at this stage in the pandemic, as border controls in the UK and other countries, and the suspension of refugee resettlement programmes, had a major impact on people's ability to come to the UK. ([Home Office Statistics relating to COVID-19 and the immigration system, May 2020](#)) So, while the impact of these particular restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers may have been relatively limited, this was a consequence of wider restrictions on travel which had a major impact on their ability to safely seek refuge.

**Key events (with dates):** 18 June 2020 – Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Phase 2 of the route map out of lockdown will begin, with a staged introduction of changes commencing on 19 June.

- **Topic:** Phase 2 of route map
- **Main body/persons involved**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 2: Scotland's route map update](#)  
Fol request: [Beer garden reopening complaints: FOI release](#) (published 10 Aug 2020)
- **Commentary:** Changes in phase 2 to be introduced in stages, rather than all at once, to assess impact on case rates and the R number. Changes include: reopening of most shops and other parts of the economy;

resuming and scaling up of public services, including specific non-COVID health services;

people living alone or single parents with children able to form an "extended group" with one other household from 19 June, allowing them to stay overnight, while up to three households can meet up outdoors;

face coverings become compulsory on public transport from 22 June;

potential changes to shielding advice to allow outdoor exercise from 18 June.

FoI request is about planned reopening of pub beer gardens.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 28 May 2020 concerning Phase 1.

**Key events (with dates):** 23 June 2020 - Key Decision: Reopening of schools.

Statement by Deputy First Minister to Parliament that schools will reopen in August 2020.

- **Topic:** Reopening of schools
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): statement by the Deputy First Minister on re-opening of schools](#)
- **FoI Request:** [Schools re-opening full time decision making correspondence: FOI release](#)
- **Commentary:** FoI request is for correspondence about this decision.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 19 March 2020 about the potential impacts of school closures. These may have been mitigated by the

reopening of schools in August but would persist until then. The Deputy First Minister's speech recognizes lockdown has been especially hard for pupils from low-income backgrounds, and states that "reducing the poverty-related attainment gap is a defining mission for this government", although no specific plans are given at this time. Unaccompanied children, and children in refugee and asylum seeker households, are likely to be over-represented in this group.

**Key events (with dates):** 24 June 2020 – Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Publication of updated route map, with indicative dates for Phase 2 and early Phase 3 measures

- **Topic:** Updated routemap
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government documents:
- **Relevant documents:** **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's route map - indicative dates for the remainder of Phase 2 and early Phase 3**  
Health and Sport Committee correspondence: **Letter from Cab Sec for Health and Sport to Convener of Health and Sport Committee**, 25 June 2020
- **Commentary:** Easing of restrictions includes allowing people to meet indoors with two other households from 10 July; reopening pubs and restaurants, holiday accommodation, and hairdressers from 15 July. The two metre social distancing rule stays in place.  
Letter from Cab Sec is about phased return to visiting in care homes.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 2 July 2020 – Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Update to Phase 2 restrictions and confirmation of dates for remainder of Phase 2.

- **Topic:** Update to phase 2 restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 2: Scotland's route map - physical distancing update](#)  
[COVID-19 Advisory Group: advice on physical distancing](#)  
Health and Sport Committee correspondence:  
[Letter Deputy FM to Convener, COVID-19 Committee, 2 July 20](#)
- **Commentary:** Updated guidance based on COVID-19 Advisory Group advice on: physical distancing, based on advice published by the COVID-19 Advisory Group: maintain 2 m physical distance but with limited exceptions in public transport, indoor and outdoor hospitality, retail.  
Children under 12 no longer required to maintain physical distancing  
No limit to the number of groups that those aged 12 – 17 can meet with in a day (maximum of 3 households in the group, no more than 8 people in total, as before).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 9 July 2020 – Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Move to Phase 3 of the Scottish Government's route map out of lockdown.

- **Topic:** Phase 3
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 3: Scotland's route map update - 9 July 2020](#)  
Fol request:

**COVID-19 guidance from SportScotland regarding changing rooms and showers: FOI release** published 25 Feb 21

- **Commentary:** People are able to meet up indoors with two other households from 10 July, and also in extended groups outside of up to fifteen from the same day. Shopping centres reopen from 13 July, and hairdressers and barbers, as well as the indoor areas of bars, restaurants, holiday accommodation, visitor attractions, cinemas and places of worship from 15 July.  
Fol request is about SportScotland guidance on changing rooms and showers.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 28 May 2020 concerning Phase 1.

**Key events (with dates):** 30 July 2020 – Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Scottish Government confirm that schools will re-open full-time from 11 August, following scientific evidence and advice that it is safe to do so.

- **Topic:** Reopening of schools
- **Main body/persons involved:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills John Swinney MSP;  
COVID-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG); newly-formed sub-group of the COVID-19 Advisory Group, specializing on education and children's issues.
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
**Schools to re-open full-time** (Scottish Government news release)  
**Guidance on preparing for the start of the new school term in August 2020** (Developed with the Education Recovery Group to support local authorities, teachers and parents to prepare for the new term)



Scottish Government Covid- 19 Advisory Group:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-20-april-2020/>

Fol Request:

**Reopening of schools: FOI release** (published 12 Aug 2020)

**Scientific advice for return to school: FOI release** (published 13 Aug 2020)

**Communications regarding full time reopening of schools: FOI release** (published 29 Sep 2020)

- **Commentary:** Fol requests – correspondence from members of public to FM and DFM about plans to reopen schools; scientific advice on return to school; communications from local authorities to Scottish Government.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 23 June 2020 about schools reopening. The **Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment**, which addresses the closing and reopening of schools, identifies key issues faced by disadvantaged children, including many refugee and asylum seeker children; but does not examine the experiences of refugee and asylum seeker children as a specific group.

**Key events (with dates):** 5 August 2020 – Aberdeen goes into lockdown – bars, restaurants, cafes and pubs legally required to close.

- **Topic:** Localised lockdown
- **Main body/persons involved:** published 21 Dec 2020
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
**Local restrictions introduced in Aberdeen**

Fol requests:

**COVID-19 related information regarding previous and future Health Protection Regulations: FOI release**

- **Commentary:** FoI request relates to correspondence between Scottish ministers and advisors and NHS Grampian officials.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 23 March 2020 about lockdown.

**Key events (with dates):** 20 August 2020 – Key Decision: Changes in restrictions: Scottish Government updates route map, setting out dates for further changes, and announces that Scotland is to remain in Phase 3 of the route map, as COVID-19 remains a significant threat to public health.

- **Topic:** Updated routemap. Phase 3.
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** [Scotland remains in Phase 3](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 3: Scotland's route map update - 20 August 2020](#)  
[Health and Sport Committee papers: COVID-19 restrictions on sports clubs and sport and leisure venues](#)
- **Commentary:** Continued gradual reopening:  
 Reopening of specified indoor and outdoor sports and leisure activities and services from 24 August 2020  
 Reopening of specified indoor sports and services (gyms, swimming pools, skating and dance studios, indoor youth work) from 31 August 2020  
 In response to recent outbreaks and evidence that indoor hospitality and social gatherings in people's homes are major risk factors:  
 New regulations to strengthen the power of local authorities to act where hospitality businesses have not implemented guidance effectively  
 New regulations to give police power of enforcement to break up and disperse large indoor gatherings.

Health and Sport Committee papers: At its meeting on 3 November, Members agreed to undertake a short, focused inquiry into the impact on sports clubs, leisure venues and communities of COVID-19 restrictions, with a particular focus on any reductions or cessation of community-based activities undertaken by sporting organisations including mental and physical health impacts on individuals. They launched two online surveys to capture information about the nature of the impact on community sports clubs/organisations and sporting venues and the effects on users. The first survey opened on 16 November 2020 - sporting organisations, sports clubs and venues informed the committee about the impact COVID-19 has had on the ability to provide community based activities and initiatives; the financial impact; and the potential long term impact. The second survey opened on 23 November 2020 – individuals reported on the impact COVID-19 has had on access to sport. Each survey closed on 7 December 2020. Following the survey responses, the committee took evidence from the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing on 15 December 2020 and on 12 January 2021 from individuals and sporting organisations. There are links to evidence sessions and correspondence.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 10 September 2020 Key Decision: Decision-making framework: Scottish Government publish an updated route map, limiting indoor and outdoor gatherings to six people from two households, as Scotland remains in Phase 3

- **Topic:** Updated routemap
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [\*\*Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 3: Scotland's route map update – 10 September 2020\*\*](#)

Scottish Government Covid- 19 Advisory Group:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-4-may-2020/>

Fol requests:

[Advice given to Scottish Government regarding weddings: FOI release](#) published 28 July 21

- **Commentary:** Because of the deteriorating state of the pandemic, the Scottish Government judged that it was not the right time to progress to Phase 4. This announcement includes further restrictions to the numbers of people who can meet socially indoors, making face coverings mandatory for customers and staff in indoor hospitality and extending the house party offence regulations that came into force on 28 August to include parties held within student residences. Attendance limits for weddings, funerals and civil partnerships remain at 20. Fol request is about limits in numbers of adults and children attending weddings.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 22 September 2020 – Key Decision: Restrictions: Scottish Government announce significant reintroduction of restrictions from 23 September 2020.

**Topic:** Reintroduction of restrictions

- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [New measures to drive down infection rate](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
[Questions concerning the COVID-19 voluntary restrictions involving students: FOI release](#) published 11 Nov 2020

- **Commentary:** This significant reintroduction of restrictions, in response to an upsurge in cases, includes:  
 No household mixing indoors in people's homes  
 Maximum of six people from two households meeting outdoors or in indoor public spaces  
 10 pm curfew for hospitality settings  
 No car sharing  
 Continue to work from home where possible  
 Fol request concerns restrictions aimed specifically at students.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 28 May 2020 concerning Phase 1, especially about the disparities between people who have the option to work from home and those who do not.

**Key events (with dates):** 7 October 2020 – Key Decision: Regional Restrictions: Scottish Government introduce further tightening of restrictions nationwide, with additional restrictions in the Central Belt

- **Topic:** Reintroduction of restrictions; regional restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [New moves to stop COVID- 19 spread](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
 The challenge Scotland faces has also been set out in an [evidence paper](#) published today by senior clinical advisors: the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Nursing Officer and the National Clinical Director. It shows the R number is currently higher in Scotland than in other UK nations and that three weeks after opening hospitality, the R number rose to 1 and above.  
 Fol request:

## Data used to restrict household gatherings due to COVID-19: FOI release published 15 October 2020

- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce further reintroduction of restrictions nationwide, to include: restricting hospitality opening times to 6am-6pm indoors, with no sales of alcohol; shops asked to return to two metres physical distancing. Additional restrictions in five health board areas (Ayrshire & Arran; Forth Valley; Greater Glasgow & Clyde; Lanarkshire; Lothian):
  - all licensed premises in the central belt area will be required to close, with the exception of takeaway services.
  - outdoor live events, adult contact sports and indoor group exercise classes (18+) are to be paused.
  - snooker/pool halls, indoor bowling, casinos and bingo halls are to close.The new restrictions will be backed by a £40 million support fund for business and the existing UK Job Retention Scheme and will be in place nationwide for 16 days. FOI request is about data related to regional restrictions on household mixing in Glasgow in September 2020.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Most refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland live in and around Glasgow, so are over-represented in the areas that face additional COVID-19 restrictions.

**Key events (with dates):** 23 October 2020 – Key Decision: Framework for Decision-making: Scottish Government publish the five-level Strategic Framework, which indicates different levels of protection that might be needed based on different levels of transmission for the virus. The levels are due to come into force on 2 November.

- **Topic:** Five level strategic framework

- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:
  - Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework**
  - Scotland's strategic framework** (Scottish Government news release)
  - FoI requests:
    - COVID-19 death statistics and implications for changes to restrictions: FOI release** published 19 Nov 2020
    - Question regarding COVID- 19 restrictions on gatherings: FOI release** published 11 Dec 2020
    - Correspondence concerning the hospitality sector during lockdown: FOI release** published 15 Dec 2020
    - COVID-19 restrictions and aquatic training: FOI release** published 17 Dec 2020
    - COVID-19 related information regarding previous and future Health Protection Regulations: FOI release** published 21 Dec 2020
    - COVID-19 restrictions related to congregational singing: FOI release** published 23 Dec 2020
    - COVID-19 local protection levels: FOI release** published 6 April 21
- **Commentary:** Level 0 (baseline) and Level 1: Characterised by low incidence of the virus with isolated clusters, and low community transmission. Broadly equivalent to the measures in place during the summer during “Phase 3” (the lowest level of restriction reached so far). Levels 0 - 1 are the closest we can get to normality, without a vaccine or effective treatment in place. Levels 0 and 1 are designed to be sustainable for long periods  
 Levels 2-3: characterised by increased incidence of the virus, with multiple clusters and increased community transmission. There would be a graduated series of protective measures to tackle the virus, focusing on key areas of risk – broadly, indoor settings where household mixing takes place with less, or less well-observed, physical distancing and mitigations. The measures would be intended to be in place for relatively

short periods (2-4 weeks), and only for as long as required to get the virus down to a low, sustainable level.

Level 4: characterised by very high or rapidly increasing incidence, and widespread community transmission which may pose a threat to the NHS to cope. Level 4 would likely involve the introduction of measures close to a return to full lockdown. Measures would be designed to be in place for a short period, to provide a short, sharp response to quickly suppress the virus.

FoI requests are about when restrictions on hospitality venues will be lifted and about restrictions on gatherings in level 4; reopening of club swimming training; data and criteria on which localized lockdown in Aberdeen was based; rules on congregational singing; local restrictions in Lothian.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The Framework recognizes the need for a “sharper focus” on “tackling inequalities exacerbated by the crisis”. Among the groups of people most affected, it recognizes people who are homeless, who are from ethnic minorities, or who are “at risk of destitution due to their immigration status” – all of whom, and especially the latter category, are likely to include a high proportion of refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates):** 07-Nov-20 to 27-Nov-21

Travel restrictions to delay the importation of new variants

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** SAGE meetings and papers: [SAGE 42 – 18-Jun-20](#)  
[SAGE 71 – 03-Dec-20](#)  
[LSHTM and the University of Manchester/the Alan Turing Institute: Comparison of quarantine and testing](#)



## strategies to prevent onwards infection from infected travelers returning to the UK from abroad, 1 December 2020

- **Commentary:** To delay the importation of new variants, travel restrictions were introduced for travellers from specific countries on **7 Nov** (Denmark), **23 Dec** (South Africa), **9 January 2021** (several countries - South Africa variant), **14 January** (several countries, Brazil variant), **28 January** (various countries, S Africa variant), **3 June** (Portugal green to amber - Delta), **17 July** (France - beta), **27 Nov** (South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Botswana - Omicron). From **18 January 2021** there was also a requirement for a pre-departure test.  
SAGE 42 – discussed double testing of travellers to enable quarantining terms of less than 14 days (double testing significantly reduces risk of false negatives). If initial testing is carried out prior to travellers entering the UK, the duration of quarantine in the UK could be shortened further (with the caveat that travellers should self-isolate between testing and travelling). Pre-testing of this kind would require international agreements and common standards.  
SAGE 71 considered a paper on the number of SARS CoV-2 infections potentially resulting from returning travellers under different quarantine and testing strategies including quarantine, test to release, and daily lateral flow testing with isolation if positive.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Ongoing travel restrictions continue to affect people's ability to travel to the UK to seek refuge, or for family reunification. See also comments on 8 June 2020.

**Key events (with dates):** 10-Nov-20 Scottish Government publishes report on impact of COVID-19 restrictions on wellbeing of children and young people

- **Topic:** Wellbeing of children and young people
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Impact of COVID-19 restrictions on children and young people.](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The report identifies the particular effect of COVID-19 restrictions on children from minority ethnic backgrounds and children living in poverty. Children in refugee and asylum seeker households are likely to be over-represented in both groups. The report does not look at refugee / asylum seeker status as a distinct factor affecting children's experience of COVID-19 restrictions.

**Key events (with dates):** 11-Dec-20 Reduction in time people are required to quarantine/ self- isolate

- **Topic:** Travel - quarantine
- **Main body/persons involved:** UK Chief Medical Officers; Health Secretary Jeane Freeman
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: <https://www.gov.scot/news/reduction-in-self-isolation/> SAGE meetings and papers: [SAGE 51 – 13-Aug-20](#) [SAGE 68 – 16-Nov-20](#)
- **Commentary:** Following their review of the latest clinical evidence and taking into account the joint recommendation of UK CMOs from all four nations, the Scottish government agrees to reduce the required isolation period for international travellers arriving in Scotland, and for contacts of positive cases in Scotland, from 14 to 10 days. SAGE 51 – called for more evidence to determine how adherence varies with the length of an isolation period and practical incentives for isolation. SAGE reiterated that a test

and release strategy could be implemented.

SAGE 68 - considered the use of LFT or PCR tests to reduce/replace quarantine by repeat testing upon tracing. Contacts of known index cases are currently required to quarantine for 14 days. As previously advised, a shorter period might be more effective in reducing transmission if it results in more people coming forward for testing and/or improves adherence to quarantine (see SAGE 67). However, there is a trade-off with increased transmission risk from those who are still infectious beyond the end of the quarantine period. Significant uncertainty exists around the modelling, so piloting is needed before any decision should be taken.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions.

**Key events (with dates):** 19 December 2020 – Key Decision: Restrictions: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces the tightening of COVID-19 restrictions around the festive period.

- **Topic:** Christmas restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [New guidance issued for the festive period](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
SAGE meetings and papers: [SAGE 73 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 17 December 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
SAGE minutes and SPI-B paper from shortly after this decision was taken:  
[SAGE 74 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 22 December 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Mitigations to reduce transmission of the new variant](#)

## **SARS-CoV-2 virus, 22 December 2020**

**(publishing.service.gov.uk)**

Fol requests:

**Covid-19 briefings relating to restrictions: FOI release**

published 15 Jun 21

**Restrictions to large events: FOI release** published 14 Feb 22

- **Commentary:** The easing of restrictions around Christmas now limited to Christmas Day itself, and not the previous 5-day window that was planned. From Boxing Day, all of Scotland to have Level 4 restrictions applied, including the closure of non-essential retail and hospitality. Other than for specific exemptions, travel between Scotland and the rest of the UK not legal from midnight on Sunday 20 December. Fol requests are about four nations alignment; restrictions to large events
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 4 Jan 2021- Key Decision:

Restrictions: Scottish Government announce **mainland**

**Scotland is to go into lockdown from 5 January 2021** with a new legal requirement forbidding anyone from leaving their home except for essential purposes

- **Topic:** Lockdown
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
**Scotland in lockdown** (Scottish Government news release)  
Scientific evidence synthesis on international public health responses to the COVID-19 outbreak-  
**Tabari P et al (2020) International Public Health Responses to COVID-19 Outbreak: A Rapid Review**  
**Johanna N et al (2020) Mass screening vs lockdown vs combination of both to control COVID-19: A systematic**

review

**Regmi K et al (2021) Factors Associated with the Implementation of Non- Pharmaceutical Interventions for Reducing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): A Systematic Review**

Fol Requests:

**Criteria for future lockdowns: FOI release** (published 15 June 2020)

**Scientific evidence regarding restrictions of pubs and gyms in Scotland: FOI release** published 15 Jan 2021

**Scientific evidence for implementing restrictions on pubs and restaurants: FOI release** published 15 Jan 2020

**Scottish Government evidence supporting the decision for restrictions: FOI release** published 11 Feb 2020

**COVID-19 scientific evidence backing the closure of schools: FOI release** published 8 Mar 2021

**Correspondence regarding enhanced restrictions for places of worship: FOI release** published 8 Mar 21

**COVID-19 scientific evidence discussions concerning restrictions within hospitality sector: FOI release** published 9 Mar 21

- **COVID-19: Closure of places of worship: FOI release** published 22 Mar 20

**Covid-19 restrictions on public worship: FOI release** published 7 April 2021

**COVID-19 closure of gyms: FOI release** published 20 Apr 21

**Correspondence relating to attendance limit at place of worship: FOI release** published 3-Jun-21

- **Commentary:** Fol requests are about criteria Scottish Government would use to assess whether to lock down again; scientific evidence regarding restrictions on hospitality and gyms; data on harms associated with lockdown; harms associated with school closure; restrictions on places of worship.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 23 March 2020 about the impact of lockdown; 19 March 2020 about the impact of school closures.

**Key events (with dates):** 2 Feb 2021- Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Scottish Government announce dates for phased return to school. To support the return to school, the Scottish Government announces a significant expansion of COVID-19 testing.

- **Topic:** Schools reopening
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Back to school](#) (Scottish Government news release) [New measures to tackle virus](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
Scottish Government Covid- 19 Advisory Group: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-30-december-2020/>
- **Commentary:** Children in early learning and childcare and in primaries 1-3 scheduled to make a full return to nurseries and schools from 22 February, subject to final confirmation on 16 February that sufficient progress in tackling the virus has been achieved. Current restrictions, including the ‘stay-at-home’ requirement, remain in place until at least the end of February and schools continue to be closed to most children for the rest of the month.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 19 March 2020 about the implications of school closures.

**Key events (with dates):** 16 Feb 2021- Key Decision: Scottish Government announce children in **early learning and childcare (ELC) and primaries 1 to 3 will return full-time to classrooms** from Monday 22 February.

- **Topic:** Schools reopening
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Remote learning to continue for majority** (Scottish Government news release)  
Fol request:  
**COVID-19 return to school: FOI review** published 12 May 2021
- **Commentary:** The majority of primary and secondary school pupils to continue with remote learning until at least mid-March while children in early learning and childcare (ELC) and primaries 1 to 3 to return full-time to classrooms from Monday 22 February  
Fol request is about return to school.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 19 March 2020 about the implications of school closures.

**Key events (with dates):** 23 Feb 2021- Key Decision: Decision-making framework:

Scottish Government publish the **updated Strategic Framework**, setting out the broad order of priority for re-opening and the conditions that need to be met to start lifting restrictions.

- **Topic:** Updated strategic framework
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Strategic Framework update - February 2021**

Scottish Government Covid- 19 Advisory Group:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-february-2021/>

**Evidence syntheses: Burns J et al (2021) International travel-related control measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic: a rapid review**

**Pang J K et al (2021) Probability and estimated risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the air travel system**

**Grépin KA et al (2021) Evidence of the effectiveness of travel-related measures during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic: a rapid systematic review**

- **Commentary:** This document updates the original **Strategic Framework** to take account of important developments, including:
    - new and highly infectious strains of the virus progress with the vaccination roll-out
    - The strategic intent remains: to suppress the virus to the lowest possible level and keep it there, while striving to return to a more normal life for as many people as possible.
    - The Framework explains how all of the tools available will be used to achieve these aims:
      - vaccination**
      - testing and contact tracing** (Test and Protect)
      - protective measures and the levels system**
      - travel restrictions** to reduce the risk of new cases and strains coming into Scotland (importation measures)
      - ensuring adherence to the rules and guidance** (adherence to measures)
      - support for people and businesses**
- The document does not provide fixed dates, because there are too many uncertainties. Instead, it sets out the conditions that need to be met to start lifting restrictions in a safe way. It provides **details of the broad order of priority for re-opening**, with the main priority continuing to be education. It espouses a gradual easing of restrictions on other areas of life as the virus is suppressed.



- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The Framework recognizes that “equality and inclusion are key to our recovery”, with a particular need to address inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic.  
The Framework offers a package of financial support measures. These include an allocation of “nearly £6m in promoting equality and tackling social isolation, including through digital inclusion” as part of a £100m Winter Support Package; while other aspects of the Winter Support Package are aimed at addressing inequalities in other ways, which may benefit refugees and asylum seekers. However, refugees and asylum seekers are not named as a specific group in need of support.

**Key events (with dates):** 24 Feb 2021 – Updated guidance on care home visiting

- **Topic:** Care home visiting
- **Main body/persons involved:** Jeane Freeman, Cab Sec for Health and Sport
- **Relevant documents:** Health and Sport Committee correspondence: [Letter from Cab Sec for Health and Sport to Convener of Health and Sport Committee, 24 Feb 21](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 2 Mar 2021-Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: Scottish Government announce [Phase 2 of schools return](#).

- **Topic:** Reopening of schools
- **Main body/persons involved:**

- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Phase 2 of schools return](#) (Scottish Government news release)
- **Commentary:** All remaining primary school children to return to school full-time from 15 March, with all secondary pupils returning on a part-time basis from that date.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 19 March 2020 about the implications of school closures.

**Key events (with dates):** 9 Mar 2021- Key Decision: Scottish Government announce changes to level 4 restrictions.

- **Topic:** Changes to level 4 restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Changes to Level 4 restrictions](#) (Scottish Government news release)
- **Commentary:** Because of a significant fall in new cases, deaths and hospital admissions, and because the progress of the vaccination programme exceeds initial expectations, a relaxation of some level 4 restrictions is possible. From Friday 12 March up to four adults from two households can meet locally outdoors for social and recreational purposes as well as exercise. Outdoor non-contact sports and group exercise will also resume for adults in groups of up to 15 people
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 12 March 2021 – Key Milestone: Easing of level 4 restrictions.

- **Topic:**
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Changes to Level 4 restrictions](#)
- **Commentary:** From 12 March 2021 a gradual easing of restrictions began (changes to level 4 restrictions), with different local authority areas moving at different paces, depending on the local state of the epidemic.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --
  
- **Key events (with dates):** 6 April 2021- Key Decision: Scottish Government announce nearly all pupils will return to full-time school after the Easter holidays, with children on the shielding list advised to stay at home until 26 April.
- **Topic:** Schools reopening
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Return to full-time school](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
Scientific evidence synthesis:  
[D'angelo D et al \(2021\) Strategies to exiting the COVID-19 lockdown for workplace and school: A scoping review](#)
- **Commentary:** A scoping review describing exit strategies for school and workplace opening with social distancing, testing and contact tracing.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 19 March 2020 about the implications of school closures.

**Key events (with dates):** 26 April 2021 – Key Milestone: Whole of Scotland moves to Level 3.

- **Topic:** Level 3
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cab Sec for Health and Sport
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement – 13 April 2021](#)  
Health and Sport Committee correspondence:  
[Letter from Cab Sec for Health and Sport to Presiding Officer, Scottish Parliament, 13 April 2021](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A

- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 14 May 2021- Key Milestone: Scottish Government announce most of mainland Scotland will move to Level 2 from Monday 17 May.

- **Topic:** Move to level 2
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents:  
[Next steps out of lockdown](#) (Scottish Government news release)  
Fol request:  
[COVID-19 correspondence from pubs and nightclubs regarding pandemic rules: FOI release](#) published 14 Sep 21
- **Commentary:** With the exception of Glasgow and Moray, Scotland to move to level 2 from Monday 17 May, with eased restrictions on hospitality, entertainment, education and sport. Most islands to move to level 1. The number of people and households that can meet inside homes in Level 2 increases to six people from three households. From 17 May, anyone entering Scotland from countries on a new international travel 'Green List' will not be required to quarantine on arrival, but

will have to take a PCR test for COVID-19.

Fol request is about pubs and nightclubs.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 7 October 2020 – as more refugees and asylum seekers live in and around Glasgow than elsewhere in Scotland, they are more likely to have been affected by regional differences in restrictions.

**Key events (with dates):** Island communities already in level 1 move to level 0; most of Scotland moves to level 1; some local authority areas remain in level 2.

- **Topic:** Island communities already in level 1 move to level 0; most of Scotland moves to level 1; some local authority areas remain in level 2.
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement - 1 June 2021](#)
- **Commentary:** Glasgow moved from Level 3 to Level 2. The following mainland local authority areas remained at Level 2: East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire and Renfrewshire  
East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, and South Ayrshire  
North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire  
Edinburgh and Midlothian  
Stirling and Clackmannanshire  
Dundee  
These 15 mainland local authorities moved to Level 1:  
Highland and Argyll & Bute  
Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray  
Angus and Perth & Kinross  
Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire  
Falkirk

Fife

West Lothian and East Lothian

The Scottish Borders

Dumfries & Galloway

Island communities already in level 1 move to level 0.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 14 May 2021.

**Key events (with dates):** 22 June 2021- Key Decision: Easing of restrictions: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces a new indicative date for the whole of Scotland to move to level 0 on 19 July, provided all necessary vaccination and harm reduction measures are met.

- **Topic:** Move to level 0
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's statement - 22 June 2021](#) (Statement to Scottish Parliament)  
Fol requests: [COVID 19 restrictions in schools: FOI release](#) published 16 Aug 21
- **Commentary:** A further indicative date of 9 August for the lifting of all major COVID-19 restrictions (subject to confirmation).  
Fol request is about school proms.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 13 July 2021- Key Decision: Easing of Restrictions: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces all of Scotland will move to protection level 0 on Monday 19 July.

- **Topic:** Move to level 0
- **Main body/persons involved:**

- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Level 0 from 19 July](#) (Scottish Government news release)
- **Commentary:** Physical distancing to reduce to 1 metre in all indoor public settings and outdoors, and informal social gatherings of up to 15 people from 15 households to be permitted outdoors without physical distancing. Mandatory face coverings to remain in place.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A

• **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 19 July 2021 – Key Milestone: All of Scotland moves to level 0

- **Topic:** Level 0
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Level 0 from 19 July](#)
- **Commentary:** All of Scotland moved to level 0 on 19 July 2021 (1 metre social distancing, outdoor gatherings of up to 15 people from 15 households, indoor gatherings of up to 10 people from 4 households, hospitality settings allowed to open until midnight, up to 200 people allowed to attend weddings and funerals).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 9 August 2021-Key Milestone: Easing of restrictions: First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces Scotland to move beyond level 0 on 9 August

- **Topic:** Move beyond level 0
  - **Main body/persons involved:**
  - **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Scotland to move beyond level 0](#) (Scottish Government news release)
- Fol request:

## COVID 19 cases linked to nightclubs, football matches & questions on vaccine passports: FOI release published 22 Feb 22

- **Commentary:** Legal requirement for physical distancing and limits on gatherings to be removed. Some protective measures to stay in place such as the use of face coverings indoors and the collection of contact details as part of Test and Protect.  
FOI request is about evidence for transmission in nightclubs and at football matches.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 07-Dec-21 Travel restrictions to delay the importation of Omicron

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Transport Secretary Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: <https://www.gov.scot/news/pre-departure-test-requirement-for-travel/>
- **Commentary:** Re-introduction of requirement for pre-departure test - People arriving in Scotland from abroad will need to take pre-departure COVID-19 tests to help stem the spread of the omicron variant. International travellers will have to provide a negative pre- departure test taken two days before travelling, in addition to a negative PCR test on or before day two after arrival, under measures agreed on a four nation basis.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers.



**Key events (with dates):** 11 December 2021 – Introduction of restrictions because of Omicron

**Topic:** Reintroduction of restrictions

- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Omicron in Scotland - evidence paper](#)
- **Commentary:** All household contacts of any confirmed coronavirus case must isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status – even if they initially get a negative PCR test. People are also being urged to defer work Christmas parties to slow the spread of the virus.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 14 December 2021 – Restrictions on social gatherings

- **Topic:** Restrictions on social gatherings
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [New measures required to slow the spread of Coronavirus](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government publish updated guidance on reducing social interaction at home or in indoor public places to a maximum of three households at any time, with everyone encouraged to take a lateral flow test before meeting.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 15-Dec-21 Easing of travel restrictions in response to Omicron targeted at specific countries are no longer effective at delaying importation.

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: <https://www.gov.scot/news/11-countries-removed-from-international-travel-red-list/>
- **Commentary:** Eleven countries are to be removed from the international travel red list as Omicron cases increase globally. Pre-departure tests and PCR testing measures on or before day 2 on arrival in Scotland will remain in place. Passengers returning from Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe will not have to stay in a managed quarantine hotel on arrival in Scotland from this date. As Omicron cases rise in Scotland and in countries around the world, restrictions targeted at specific countries on the travel red list are no longer as effective as they were in slowing the incursion of Omicron from abroad. Other temporary protections will remain effective and proportionate for longer. All passengers arriving in the UK must continue to take a pre-departure test before they depart for the UK and must take a PCR test on or before day 2 and self-isolate until they receive a negative result.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates):** 27 December 2021 Tightening of restrictions – one metre social distancing reintroduced in indoor hospitality and nightclubs must close

- **Topic:** Social distancing
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Further measures needed to reduce contacts](#)  
[Nightclubs to close](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce one metre physical distancing to return in indoor hospitality and leisure settings from 27 December. Attendance at large events will be limited (100 people for indoor standing events, to 200 for indoor seated events, and to 500 for all outdoor events) from 26 December.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 06-Jan-22 Easing of travel restrictions

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: <https://www.gov.scot/news/easing-of-restrictions-on-international-travellers/>
- **Commentary:** People travelling to Scotland from abroad who are fully vaccinated or under the age of 18 will no longer need to take pre-departure COVID-19 tests, and will also no longer be required to self-isolate on arrival until they've received a negative result. Travellers in this group will still need to take a test on or before day 2 after arriving in the UK - which can be a lateral flow device rather than a PCR test
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates):** 17 January 2022 Easing of restrictions

- **Topic:** Outdoor events
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Large outdoor events resume from 17 January](#)
- **Commentary:** Large outdoor events can resume without physical distancing or capacity limits from 00:01 on Monday 17 January.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 24 January 2022 Easing of restrictions

- **Topic:** Hospitality and leisure
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Omicron measures to be lifted](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce restrictions including one metre physical distancing in hospitality and leisure settings, table service in hospitality venues and attendance limits at indoor events will be removed from Monday 24 January. Non-professional indoor contact sports will also resume.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 31 January 2022 Easing of restrictions

- **Topic:** Working from home
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Changes to working from home advice](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce that from Monday 31 January businesses can resume hybrid working arrangements.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 28 May 2020 concerning Phase 1, especially about the disparities between people who have the option to work from home and those who do not.

**Key events (with dates):** 3 February 2022 Extension to legislation

- **Topic:** Legal framework
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: [Coronavirus provisions extended](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce a six month extension to some temporary provisions made under UK legislation.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 9 February 2022 Extension to legislation

- **Topic:** Legal framework
- **Main body/persons involved:**

- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Expiry date of Covid regulations extended**
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce the extension of the expiry date for statutory coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions and requirements to 24 September 2022. The restrictions will remain subject to review every three weeks.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 11-Feb-22 Easing of travel restrictions

- **Topic:** Travel restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Travel restrictions eased**
- **Commentary:** Fully vaccinated arrivals into Scotland will no longer be required to possess a negative test result from 4am on 11 February. Travellers will still need to fill in passenger locator forms and face coverings will still be required at Scottish airports in line with wider health advice. Non vaccinated travellers will still be required to take pre-departure tests and a PCR test on or before day two – but the requirement for isolation will end – and they will no longer have to take a day eight test.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates):** 22-Feb-22 Key Decision: Scotland's updated strategic framework is published

- **Topic:** Strategic framework
- **Main body/persons involved:**

- **Relevant documents:** Scottish Government documents: **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Scotland's Strategic Framework update - February 2022**

- **Commentary:** While most of the regulations regarding protective measures have now been lifted there are still four baseline measures that continue to be required by law (at the time of the publication of this document):

Wearing a face-covering in indoor public spaces/public transport Hospitality businesses required to collect and share customer information to support Test and Protect contact tracing.

Businesses, service providers and places of worship required to have regard to guidance about reducing risk of exposure to COVID- 19 on their premises.

Large events and late night venues must operate the COVID-19 certification scheme.

These legal measures will be converted to guidance - often it will make sense for individuals and organisations to continue to adopt them.

On 28 February, the legal requirement for COVID-19 certification in certain settings will end.

On 21 March (indicative date) the legal requirement for face-coverings in indoor public places and on public transport will end.

Responding to future threats

Outbreaks are likely over the coming years, and we can expect new variants to appear globally. It may therefore prove necessary to take steps to protect people from serious illness and death in future. This might involve implementing temporary and targeted protective measures, either within individual settings, in certain localities or nationally.

Managing future threats at the national level

The first category of response consists of the routine adaptations to behaviours and settings that are likely to become an essential part of how we all live with COVID-19 going forwards, alongside individuals taking up vaccines

when invited to do so and having the testing and treatment regime in place to assess the prevalence and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19.

The second response category consists of temporary, baseline protective measures that would provide an additional layer of protection if we assess there to be an increased risk of COVID.

Judgements around the reintroduction of baseline measures would also take into account the recognised need for stability and to avoid frequently changing rules and advice concerning protective measures.

The third and fourth categories of response would only be applied if there was a 'high' threat from the virus that, without a significant response, would cause a very large increase in morbidity and mortality. The Scottish Government recognises the increased impacts these types of responses have on the economy and society and therefore would only use them when absolutely required.

The third category consists of temporary, targeted protective measures, similar to those that were applied to deal effectively with the Omicron variant. These are likely to involve legal measures affecting certain higher risk settings and activities.

The fourth and highest response level would consist of temporary, extensive protective measures. This would involve legal restrictions and requirements for a wider range of settings and activities but would likely still fall well short of a 'lockdown'.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The Framework states that “It is imperative that we continue to ensure that any continuing or new measures do not exacerbate inequality, which is why equality, human rights and inclusion remain at the heart of our ongoing response.” Two particular areas where this commitment may benefit



refugees and asylum seekers are to do with the commitment to address health inequalities, and to address systemic racialized inequalities (the latter building on the [Scottish Government's 2021 Race Equality Immediate Priorities Plan](#)).

## Lockdown and Restrictions: Timeline 2022

**Key event (date):** 1 Jan

- **Topic:** New year celebrations cancelled
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-59844031>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-1](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-1)
- **Commentary:** All official events for New Year's celebrations were cancelled by the Government, however, crowds gathered to usher in the New Year.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 2 Jan

- **Topic:** Five Scottish league football matches postponed
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/59849123>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-4)
- **Commentary:** Team members of the league teams tested positive for COVID-19 leading to cancellation of five football matches scheduled over the New Year weekend.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** -

### **Key event (date): 3 Jan Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Highest daily number of COVID-19 cases
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59859179>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-5](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-5)
- **Commentary:** 20,217 cases reported in a single day in Scotland- the first that more than 20,000 cases were recorded on a single day.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

### **Key event (date): 6 Jan**

- **Topic:** Period of self- isolation reduced from ten to seven days
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59880007>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-12](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-12)
- **Commentary:** Period of self-isolation following a positive COVID-19 test cut down to 7 days instead of ten same as the rest of the UK.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 15 March 2020 about the potential challenges of self- isolation for refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key event (date):** 7 Jan

- **Topic:** International travelers not to take pre-departure COVID-19 test
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59901144>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-13](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-13)
- **Commentary:** Fully vaccinated international travelers need not take pre- departure Covid test and do not need to isolate until taking a PCR test on arrival.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 8 June 2020 about the impact of travel restrictions on refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key event (date):** 11 January

- **Topic:** Announcement that large **outdoor** events can resume without physical distancing or capacity limits from 00.01 17January.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government. Applies to outdoor events in Scotland.
- Individuals attending events still need to show they are “fully vaccinated”/exempted or had negative test.
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/large-outdoor-events-resume-from-17-january/>
- **Commentary:** COVID-19 certification is needed at events that have 4,000 standing and 10,000 seated and other events/venues previously covered by certification. Events with more than 1,000 attendees are required to check a minimum of 50% COVID-19 status. Fully vaccinated changed – need to have had booster if last vaccine was more than 4 months ago.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 11 January

- **Topic:** No change in decision making.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory group meeting
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-11-january-2022/>
- **Commentary:** Reviewed current infection rates and updates from the Nosocomial and Education and children issues review groups.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 14 Jan **Key Milestone**

**Topic:** COVID-19 related deaths cross the 10,000 mark

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59999839>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-27](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-27)
- **Commentary:** The total number of COVID-19 deaths surpassed the 10,000 mark to a sum total of 10,038.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 18 January

- **Topic:** Easing of restrictions on hospitality and leisure settings announced.  
Attendance limits in indoor events removed.  
Nightclubs can reopen.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government. Indoor events in Scotland.
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/omicron-measures-to-be-lifted/>
- **Commentary:** Requirement to collect customer details in hospitality settings, face coverings in public places and transport to continue but 1m physical distancing removed in hospitality/leisure. People work at home where possible. COVID-19 certification not extended
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 20 January

- **Topic:** Isolation for people moving into care home
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government Care homes
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/restrictions-eased-for-care-home-residents/>
- **Commentary:** People transferring from hospital to care home no longer need to isolate if negative PCR in previous 48hrs if no symptoms of respiratory virus and not exposed in previous 14 days.  
Isolated after testing positive in care home reduced to 10 days. Residents who have overnight hospital stays no longer need to have negative PCR or isolate on return.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date): 22 Jan Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Highest recorded number of COVID-19 deaths in a day since Sep 2021
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60098721>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-33](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-33)
- **Commentary:** 30 COVID-19 related deaths recorded in a single day- the highest since Sep 2021.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date): 24 Jan**

- **Topic:** Distance aware scheme launched
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60082436>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-35](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-35)
- **Commentary:** Distance Aware scheme launched by the Scottish Government. Under this scheme, free badges and lanyards showing a yellow shield can be obtained by people if they are worried about COVID-19 risks in public spaces and indicate to people that they would like to maintain distance from others.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date): 25 January**

- **Topic:** Business can resume hybrid working from 31 January
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government  
Businesses
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/changes-to-working-from-home-advice/>.
- **Commentary:** Hybrid working plan to be published later that week
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** See comments on 28 May 2020 concerning Phase 1, especially about the disparities between people who have the option to work from home and those who do not.

**Key event (date):** 28 Jan

- **Topic:** Distancing rules changed for indoor spaces
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60159431>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-39](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-39)
- **Commentary:** The two-metre distancing rule is changed to one-metre for indoor spaces.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date): 3 February Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** 6 month extension to temporary provisions made under UK (United Kingdom) legislation
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronavirus-provisions-extended/>
- **Commentary:** Five regulations made under the UK Coronavirus Act 2020 were extended for a further 6m until 24 September 2022. Include powers to make public health protection regulations, allowed wider range of health professionals to give vaccination, remote registration of deaths and stillbirths, temporary closure or temporary continuity of educational institutions and childcare.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date): 7th February**

- **Topic:** No change in decision making
- **Main body/persons involved:** Coronavirus (COVID- 19): Advisory Sub- Group on Universities and Colleges: advice note for adaptation to help manage the next phase and future phases of COVID-19
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-on-universities-and-colleges-advice-note-for-adaptation-to-help-manage-the-next-phase-and-future-phases-of-COVID-19/>
- **Commentary:** Advice regarding management for Universities and colleges
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --



**Key event (date):** 9 February

- **Topic:** Expiry date of statutory coronavirus requirements and enforcement powers for local authorities extended to 24th September
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/expiry-date-of-covid-regulations-extended/>
- **Commentary:** Requirements included guidance to business, service providers and places of worship to take reasonable measures to minimize COVID-19. Would be reviewed 3 weekly by ministers.
- Regulations enabling local authorities to give directions in relations to business, premises, events, access to public outdoor spaces also extended to 24 September, subject to 6 weekly review.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 10 February KEY MILESTONE

- **Topic:** Restrictions removed on assemblies in schools and transitioning into P1 and S1.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government Schools
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-19-school-rules-to-be-eased/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-minutes-8-february-2022/>  
<https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20220307182305/http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/>
- **Commentary:** Restrictions in assemblies removed but schools should continue to employ relevant mitigations such as ventilation, physical distancing. Transition visits for pupils entering P1 or S1 allowed if properly risk assessed.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on reducing risks in schools updated

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 10 Feb

- **Topic:** Continued clear and consistent messaging about benefits of protective behaviours while removing restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1054509/S1509\\_SAGE\\_105\\_minutes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054509/S1509_SAGE_105_minutes.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The scientific rationale as well as continued benefits of protective behaviour must be communicated by clear and consistent messaging whenever restrictions are lifted.
- Appropriate timing for shifting messaging from Central Govt to local public health, UKHSA and NHS agencies (high confidence).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** There is no consideration of refugee and asylum seekers in messaging discussions, aside from possible inclusion in mention of “vulnerable” populations. Messaging for refugees and asylum seekers should consider language needs and culturally appropriate communication. It is unclear if this was considered.

**Key event (date):** 10 Feb

- **Topic:** Lifting of restrictions may have disproportionate effect on marginalised and socio-economically deprived groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Independent Scientific Pandemic Insights Group on Behaviours (SPI-B)
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1054362/S1514\\_SPI-B\\_note\\_on\\_lifting\\_restrictions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054362/S1514_SPI-B_note_on_lifting_restrictions.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The lifting of restrictions may have a disproportionate impact on the health of marginalised and socio-economically deprived groups and areas. Factors influencing this include health inequalities and barriers to accessing healthcare, occupation and household circumstances. Financial aid and public communications to groups who have been most acutely affected should be considered.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** Notes considerations for “deprived socioeconomic and minority groups” as well as marginalised or disadvantaged communities and migrant workers. Such groups may include refugees and asylum seekers but they are not specifically mentioned. However, access to healthcare and stable housing are likely to be more difficult for refugees and asylum seekers due to possible precarious financial situations and challenges around information access/communication.

## **Key event (date): 22 February Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Strategic framework will reply on vaccines, treatment, good public health behaviors to control virus
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government strategic framework – update (previous update November 2021)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-speech-tuesday-22-february-2022/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/pages/2/>
- **Commentary:** The first minister introduces the new strategic framework. COVID-19 certification to end 28 February, regulations on face covering in indoor public places and public transport to revert to guidance. Legal requirements on businesses, places of worship and service providers transition into guidance.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation / supporting documents:** The Framework states that “It is imperative that we continue to ensure that any continuing or new measures do not exacerbate inequality, which is why equality, human rights and inclusion remain at the heart of our ongoing response.” Two particular areas where this commitment may benefit refugees and asylum seekers are to do with the commitment to address health inequalities, and to address systemic racialized inequalities (the latter building on the [Scottish Government’s 2021 Race Equality Immediate Priorities Plan](#)).

**Key event (date):** 28 Feb

- **Topic:** Covid passports no longer needed for large events
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60546409>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-33](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-33)
- **Commentary:** Regulation for large events to have COVID-19 passports for all attendees lifted.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 8 March

- **Topic:** No change in decision making.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Coronavirus advisory subgroup of education and children's issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues-minutes-8-march-2022/>
- **Commentary:** Reviewed current guidelines in schools and infection rates. Last meeting of this subgroup.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 10 Mar **Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Covid-related hospital admissions at its highest in last 13 months
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60698453>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-68](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-68)

- **Commentary:** COVID-19 admissions at their highest in the past 13 months with 1636 inpatients reported on 9 March.  
**Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A  
**Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 14 Mar **Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Omicron variant BA.2 responsible for 85% of new cases
- **Main body/persons involved:** Chief Medical Officer
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60736563>.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-70](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-70)
- **Commentary:** 85% of new cases attributable to the Omicron variant BA.2 as per the Chief Medical Officer.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 14 March

- **Topic:** End of travel restrictions for incoming travelers.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/international-travel-restrictions-end/>
- **Commentary:** Cross-UK meeting all travel restrictions for people coming to Scotland to end. Fully vaccinated and non-vaccinated travelers no longer required to complete Passenger Locator Forms from 4am 18 March. Non-vaccinated travelers will cease pre-department and day 2 PCR.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 17 March

- **Topic:** Scotland economic output and performance during the pandemic mirrored changes in public health restrictions with some sectors more effected than
- others.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Audit Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/briefing\\_220317\\_supporting\\_businesses.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/briefing_220317_supporting_businesses.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Using data from 2020 and 2021 showed the unequal economic impact of restrictions. Regions where tourism and hospitality contribute greater proportion to economic activity were more vulnerable to lockdown measures. Disproportionate impact on rural and island economies.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 01 May

- **Topic:** Self-isolation rule ends for Covid positive individuals
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-61272252>.
- **Commentary:** Stay at home if unwell guidance replaces the self-isolation rule for COVID-19 positive individuals.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Although this guidance replaced isolation, guidance to remain at home will still impact refugees and asylum seekers, who often reside in shared facilities and cannot isolate. Remaining at home may have an impact on this population's financial situation, which is often precarious and therefore impacted by missing work.

**Key event (date):** 1 June

- **Topic:** Open with Care guidelines for care homes
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government Care homes
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/open-with-care-supporting-meaningful-contact-in-adult-care-homes-principles/>
- **Commentary:** Advice and guidance to care homes saying people in care homes should be able to see their friends and family without restrictions including during COVID-19 and other infectious outbreaks.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 16 June

- **Topic:** Overview of Scotland's financial response to pandemic with amount of spending when country was entering new restrictions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Audit Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr\\_220616\\_financial\\_response\\_to\\_covid.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr_220616_financial_response_to_covid.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The amount of spending over each lockdown provided from the start of the pandemic through to beginning of 2022.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --



## **Appendix 2: Vaccinations (2d)**

### **Vaccinations – Summary of the Impact on Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

Scotland's COVID-19 vaccination rollout began in December 2020, since then over 2.5 million doses have been distributed across the nation. Throughout the vaccination roll-out, there were many points where vulnerable populations missed or overlooked by Scotland's distribution strategy. Despite the recognition of multiple vulnerable groups, many of challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers were not considered. In November 2020, the potential impacts of COVID on refugees were noted concerning under-vaccination and reluctance to get involved with NHS/government services based on their status as an asylum seekers or migrants.

Recommendations were made to connect with local religious groups to promote vaccine uptake, exploration of how holding centres deal with vaccination status, link with third-sector organisations that support refugees and asylum seekers and provide public health messages in some community languages voiced by community members, ensure staff knows refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to free health care.

While dropping-in locations, which were introduced in July 2021, have increased the accessibility of the vaccine to marginalised groups, many obstacles remain for refugees and asylum seekers. Some of the fears and concerns this population face were not discussed. Documents highlighted the need for guidance to be made available in more languages and working with community leaders to help bridge some communities' gaps. Overall, there has been a lack of attention given to the specific needs of this population during the vaccine distribution process.

## Vaccinations: Timeline 2020 to 2021

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**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 11/01/2020** The genetic sequence of SARS-COV-2 was published triggering the urgent international response to prepare for an outbreak and hasten development of a preventive COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-020-00073-5>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/03/2020** First mention of future SAGE meetings to include broader aspects of COVID-19, including vaccines

- **Topic:**
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 17 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 18 March 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/sage-17-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-18-march-2020)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 26/03/2020** SAGE prioritise their focus on clinical trials for treatment and vaccine options, including when meaningful results will be available.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 19 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 26 March 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/sage-19-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-26-march-2020)

- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 06/04/2020** The UK vaccine taskforce is established by the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir Patrick Vallance.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir Patrick Vallance
- **Relevant documents:**  
[S0135\\_Vaccine\\_Taskforce\\_Aims.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[SAGE 23 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 7 April 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-vaccine-taskforce-objectives-and-membership-of-steering-group>
- **Commentary:** SAGE outlines its vaccine taskforce aims to ensure the UK is in a position to vaccinate as soon as a vaccine is ready. The Oxford vaccine is close to clinical trials while the Imperial College vaccine is at an earlier stage of development.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 21/04/2020** SAGE acknowledge that immunity from the vaccine may differ from natural immunity

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 27 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 21 April 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 23/4/2020** SAGE discussed the importance to engage with international biotech and vaccine companies; and to develop UK vaccine manufacturing capacity in the short and longer term

- **Topic:** Vaccine development/ manufacturing
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-april-2020/sage-28-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-april-2020>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 23/04/2020** SAGE states modelling indicates that without enhanced immunity provided by vaccines, contact tracing and COVID-secure measures are unlikely to be sufficiently effective to allow a return to 'pre-COVID' normality without increasing infections rates.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE/ Cabinet office commission
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 43 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 23 June 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-43-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-23-june-2020)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 30/04/2020** SAGE highlights the need for innovative trial design for vaccine deployment.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 30 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 30 April 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-30-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response)
- **Commentary:** SAGE highlights the need for innovative trial design other than spike protein technology as there are fewer than a dozen 'front-runners' in terms of vaccines out of 200 potential candidates. A clear plan is needed for 2020/21 seasonal flu vaccine deployment.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 16/05/2020** Kate Bingham was named chair to Vaccine Taskforce

**Topic:** Vaccination programme

- **Main body/person involved:** Vaccine Taskforce
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/kate-bingham-appointed-chair-of-uk-vaccine-taskforce>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 04/06/2020** SAGE discuss the need for JCVI and CMO to gather serological data for future vaccination programmes.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 40 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 4 June 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-40-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response)

- **Commentary:** SAGE discuss the need for JCVI and CMO to gather serological data for future vaccination programmes as it is hypothesised immunity differs between groups. Possibility of elderly patients requiring an adjuvant.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** More investigation of the exposure COVID- 19 among BAME communities. Work and home environments. Calls for more social science research in this area.

**Key events (with dates): 16/06/2020** UK Government announce clinical researchers will begin human trials of a new coronavirus vaccine developed by researchers at Imperial College London.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** Imperial College London
- **Relevant documents:** [Government-funded Imperial College COVID-19 vaccine moves into first human trials - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** The Imperial College London COVID-19 vaccine used a self-amplifying ribonucleic acid (RNA) technology.

On **26/01/2021**, Scientists at Imperial College London have announced they will not be proceeding with large-scale testing of their COVID-19 vaccine because of the rapid approval of other jabs within the UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/COVID-vaccine-variant-imperial-college-uk-b1792766.html>

On **23/09/2021** the Imperial College London, startup VaxEquity has announced a strategic, long-term research collaboration with AstraZeneca to develop its self- amplifying RNA technology.

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/230554/imperial-rna-technology-developed-vaxequity-with/>

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

Key events (with dates): **02/07/2020** SAGE to carry out work on public attitudes towards vaccines

- **Topic:** Vaccine acceptance
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904684/S0596\\_Forty-fifth\\_SAGE\\_meeting\\_on\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904684/S0596_Forty-fifth_SAGE_meeting_on_COVID-19.pdf)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

Key events (with dates): **Key milestone 20/7/2020** The University of Oxford publishes its findings from a coronavirus vaccine trial, noting that the vaccine appears safe and triggers an immune response

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** University of Oxford
- **Relevant documents:** [Coronavirus: Oxford vaccine triggers immune response - BBC News](#)  
[Safety and immunogenicity of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine against SARS-CoV-2: a preliminary report of a phase 1/2, single-blind, randomised controlled trial - The Lancet](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): November 2020** PHS led a health inequalities impact assessment (HIIA) for an extended flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme, which was published in December 2021.

- **Topic:** Impact on equalities
- **Main body/person involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/10611/extended-flu-and-COVID-19-vaccination-health-inequalities-impact-assessment-nov-2020.pdf>
- **Commentary:** This report identified potential barriers to the uptake of flu and COVID-19 vaccines across different population groups, such as those from minority ethnic backgrounds, people living in deprived areas and people with disabilities.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Clear evidence of the vulnerability of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**Key events (with dates): 02/11/2020** The Group discussed a paper, noting vaccine delivery was being planned, and front-runners could be available in December.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-2-november-2020/>
- **Commentary:** It was noted assessing vaccine effects would be complex and different deployment strategies may be needed.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 09/11/2020** Pfizer and BioNTech publish positive efficacy results from Phase 3 studies of their potential COVID-19 vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccine efficacy/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Pfizer and BioNTech
- **Relevant documents:** **COVID vaccine: First 'milestone' vaccine offers 90% protection - BBC News**  
[https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study- COVID-19-vaccine](https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/pfizer-and-biontech-conclude-phase-3-study-covid-19-vaccine)  
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa2034577>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 12/11/2020** SAGE noted the need for very effective pharmacovigilance, for both vaccine safety and efficacy

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety/ vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/937450/S0881\\_Sixty-seventh\\_SAGE\\_meeting\\_on\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/937450/S0881_Sixty-seventh_SAGE_meeting_on_COVID-19.pdf)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 16/11/2020** The Group noted time needed to assess vaccine effectiveness, and the logistical challenges of mass- vaccination.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery/ vaccine effectiveness

- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-16-november-2020/>
- **Commentary:** Initial priority group would be 80+, noting the change in priority of vaccinating the vulnerable. Insufficient data exists on achieving herd-immunity, but optimism was noted. High uptake was considered likely, but some may be hesitant. A need to tackle a possible assumption that NPIs would not be needed post-vaccination was identified as a concern.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** There was a discussion of vulnerable groups and disproportionate harms for “BAME” communities. No direct mention of Refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 19/11/20** Scottish Government outlines plans and prioritisation groups for the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Secretary Jeane Freeman; JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** [COVID-19 vaccines update - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-19-vaccines-update-2020-11-19/pages/1/)  
[\[Withdrawn\] Priority groups for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination: advice from the JCVI, 2 December 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination)
- **Commentary:** Document from 2/12, which outlines priority groups and presents issues in relation to inequalities
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Priority groups were created and there was no mention of refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 22/11/20** Health secretary decision not to make vaccines mandatory.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Secretary Jeane Freeman
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-55035521>
- **Commentary:** Rather than making vaccines mandatory, the hope is that people will choose to be vaccinated.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 25/11/2020** SAGE Vaccine taskforce to review emerging evidence over the next 3 weeks from SIREN, Oxford Health Care Worker Study and vaccine trials

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety/ Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/938977/S0909\\_Sixty-ninth\\_SAGE\\_meeting\\_on\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938977/S0909_Sixty-ninth_SAGE_meeting_on_COVID-19.pdf)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key Milestone 02/12/2020** UK Government announce that the vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech has been authorised by the medicines regulator for use in the UK.

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:** [COVID-19 vaccine authorised by medicines regulator - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the Pfizer vaccine for use in the UK, becoming the first country to approve this vaccine and the first country in the Western world to approve the use of any COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Noted again priority groups but no mention of refugee and asylum seekers

**Key events (with dates): 03/12/2020** The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group discusses the authorisation of the Pfizer vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-3-december-2020/>
- **Commentary:** In the meeting the following are discussed: the significance of the authorisation, JCVI recommendations, vaccine supplies, anti- vaccination views, vaccine passports and testing in the era of vaccination.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key Milestone 08/12/2020** Scottish Government announce the first vaccinations against coronavirus (COVID- 19) have been given in Scotland to those who will be carrying out the vaccination programme.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland; NHS Health Boards
- **Relevant documents:** [First COVID-19 vaccinations in Scotland take place. - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key Milestone 08/12/2020**

AstraZeneca and Oxford University publish positive efficacy results from Phase 3 studies of their potential COVID-19 vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccine efficacy/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Oxford University and AstraZeneca
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32661-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32661-1/fulltext)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 10/12/2020** SAGE considered a paper on early insights from vaccination modelling, and the impact of immunisation on the epidemic. Trials have also shown that some vaccines are highly effective at preventing symptoms of COVID- 19.

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety/ Vaccine efficacy

- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999169/S0969\\_Seventy-second\\_SAGE\\_meeting\\_on\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999169/S0969_Seventy-second_SAGE_meeting_on_COVID-19.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/954908/s0959-spi-m-o-early-insights-vaccines.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954908/s0959-spi-m-o-early-insights-vaccines.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/999940/S0960\\_NERVTAG\\_Immunity\\_Certification.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999940/S0960_NERVTAG_Immunity_Certification.pdf)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **Key milestone 14/12/2020** First doses of Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine delivered in care homes. Difficulties with delivering the vaccine to Scottish Islands.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55287355>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-55308636>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **16/12/2020** The Scottish Government reports medium-to-long-term consideration to vaccines.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-16-december-2020/>
- **Commentary:** Discussion includes vaccine effectiveness in light of the new variant. Importance of vaccine's effect on transmission on easing restrictions; need to understand expected future developments for vaccines and children.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** 17/12/2020 SAGE noted that there is significant risk that vaccine uptake for COVID-19 will be lower among minority ethnic groups.

- **Topic:** Vaccine acceptance
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/952613/s0989-COVID-19-sage-73-minutes-171220.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952613/s0989-COVID-19-sage-73-minutes-171220.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/952716/s0979-factors-influencing-vaccine-uptake-minority-ethnic-groups.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/952716/s0979-factors-influencing-vaccine-uptake-minority-ethnic-groups.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/950723/s0978-spi-b-possible-impact-COVID-19-vaccination-programme-adherence-to-rules-guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/950723/s0978-spi-b-possible-impact-COVID-19-vaccination-programme-adherence-to-rules-guidance.pdf)
- **Commentary:** There is significant risk that vaccine uptake for COVID-19 will be lower among minority ethnic groups, mainly related to trust in vaccine safety and efficacy. Also, there is a risk that changes in behaviour could offset the benefits of vaccination, particularly in the early months of vaccine rollout.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Significant discussion on vaccine uptake being lower in minority groups but lacking conversation around refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 30/12/2020**

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approves the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine for use in the UK.

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/oxford-universityastrazeneca-COVID-19-vaccine-approved>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/954908/s0959-spi-m-o-early-insights-vaccines.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954908/s0959-spi-m-o-early-insights-vaccines.pdf)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 30/12/2020** The UK Chief Medical Officers issue a statement on the prioritisation of first doses of the coronavirus vaccines.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** 4 UK CMOs; JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** [Statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the prioritisation of first doses of COVID-19 vaccines - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-prioritisation-of-first-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines)
- **Commentary:** 1) Change of delivery plans where delivering first vaccine doses to as many people on the JCVI Phase 1 priority list in the shortest possible timeframe was prioritised (which meant extension of period between two doses of Pfizer vaccine from 3 to 12 weeks)



2) Vaccination with either vaccine (Astrazeneca or Pfizer) in pregnancy should be considered where the risk of exposure SARS-CoV2 infection is high and cannot be avoided, or where the woman has underlying conditions that place her at very high risk of serious complications of COVID- 19

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 30/12/2020** The Group raises vaccination of teachers; identifies vaccine behaviours as an issue for coming meetings.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-30-december-2020/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 30/12/2020** Initial results for the efficacy and safety of the Moderna vaccine Phase 3 trial were announced in press releases.

- **Topic:** Vaccine efficacy/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Moderna
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa2035389>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 04/01/2021** Scottish Government announce the rollout of the Astrazeneca vaccine.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland; NHS Health boards
- **Relevant documents:** [Roll-out of Astrazeneca vaccine gets underway - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 07/01/2021** SAGE discusses delaying the time between vaccine doses, vaccinating under 16's and variant susceptibility to vaccines  
And

**07/01/2021** Scottish government discuss revaccination and wider rollout of the vaccine programme

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery/ Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 75 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 7 January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)  
[SARS-CoV-2 immunity-escape variants \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)  
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 7 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)  
[HERD+IMMUNITY+-+%2807+January+2021%29.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:** Concerns about escape variants and mutations. Possible expansion of vaccination to younger age groups.

The UK delays the second vaccination from 3 weeks after the first dose to 12 weeks after the first dose. Vaccination of under 16's considered. Investigations into variant B.1.1.7 susceptibility to current vaccines.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 07/01/2021** Scottish government announces that more than half of all care home residents have been vaccinated

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Nicola Sturgeon
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55575978>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 08/01/2021** MHRA approval of Moderna vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorization
- **Main body/person involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-COVID-19-vaccine-moderna>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 11/01/2021** Scottish Government announce the rollout of the Oxford/Astrazeneca coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine in GP practices and community vaccination centres.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland; GP practices and community vaccination centres
- **Relevant documents:** [Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine national roll-out - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/01/2021** SAGE acknowledge that vaccines are not 100% effective and there will not be 100% coverage.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE/ NHSE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 76 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 14 January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)  
[S1024\\_SPI-M\\_vaccination\\_ask\\_Imperial\\_College.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)  
[S1023\\_SPI-M\\_Vaccine\\_scenarios\\_pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- **Commentary:** Caution is advised around relaxing NPIs in the absence of high vaccine coverage. NHSE asked to identify how data on vaccination uptake and refusals can be obtained.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key event 14/01/2021** Publication of the Scottish Government's first COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210930\\_vaccination.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210930_vaccination.pdf)  
[University of Warwick: COVID-19 vaccine impact forecast, 13 January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/university-of-warwick-covid-19-vaccine-impact-forecast-13-january-2021)  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-vaccine-deployment-plan-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 16/01/2021** Scotland begin mass vaccination of health care workers.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55688152>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 17/01/2021** Doctors leaders warn that 'patchy' supply of vaccines to GP surgeries is negatively affecting deployment

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55695249>

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/01/2021** Armed forces help to establish 80 more COVID vaccination centres in Scotland

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55695133>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 19/01/2021** Scottish government announces that that vaccination targets will be met

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55718313>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 21/01/2021** SAGE are satisfied there is no evidence of significant antigenic escape (natural or vaccine-induced) for the B.1.1.7 variant. Other variants being monitored.

And

**21/01/2021** Scottish government discuss antigenic escape, along with vaccine hesitancy and uptake.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness

- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 77 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 21 January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 21 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)  
[State+of+the+epidemic+report+-+22+January+2021+%2828+January+2021%29.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Variants N501Y, E484K and K417N/E are being monitored. The Vaccine Science Coordination Group (VSCG) has now been established.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Noted that inequalities remain an issue and vaccine hesitancy.

**Key events (with dates): 21/01/2021** Scottish Government launch the vaccination information campaign ‘Roll your sleeves up’.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Inform
- **Relevant documents:** [Vaccination information campaign - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 24/01/2021** Scottish Government announce invitations for COVID-19 vaccine appointments for people aged 70-79 will commence from Monday 25 January.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, NHS Health boards

- **Relevant documents:** [Vaccination programme update - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:** Use of blue envelopes;  
A new booking system is being used by health boards in Fife, Forth Valley, Ayrshire & Arran, Lanarkshire, Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lothian to schedule appointments for patients in order of priority. More boards are expected to make use of the technology as the vaccination programme expands.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** The new booking system could create a barrier to refugees and asylum seekers who do not have access to technology.

**Key events (with dates): 28/01/2021** SAGE estimates that 20-40% of the population have had a primary infection or been vaccinated.

Studies of B.1.351 show reductions in ability of sera to neutralise the virus.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; SPI-M
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 78 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 28 January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- **Commentary:** Immunity peaks in young adults and lowest in the youngest and oldest age groups. SPI- M projections show a lag between vaccination and prevention of infection, hospitalisation and deaths.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key events (with dates): 28/01/2021** Scottish government is working to accelerate the vaccine rollout

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 28 January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 28/01/2021** UK Government announce commercial manufacturing of the Valneva COVID-19 vaccine candidate begins in Livingston, West Lothian.

- **Topic:** Vaccine production
- **Main body/person involved:** Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Department of Health and Social Care, The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP, and The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
- **Relevant documents:** [Large-scale coronavirus vaccine manufacturing begins in Scotland - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Scottish Secretary, Alister Jack: “The UK government has invested millions into developing the Valneva vaccine, which is also supporting hundreds of highly skilled jobs in Scotland.”  
In September 2021, Valneva announced that the UK government had cancelled the vaccine order pulling out of a £1.2 billion deal (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-58499064>)  
In November 2011, Valneva calls for apology from UK Government and said that has not ruled out legal action.

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/livingston-COVID-vaccine-maker-valneva-calls-for-apology-from-uk-government-and-has-not-ruled-out-legal-action-3453925>)

On 23/12/2021, Valneva said that it is in "advanced discussions" with Scottish Enterprise over a multi-million pound deal which would see its COVID vaccines manufactured in Scotland. (<https://valneva.com/press-release/valneva-and-scottish-enterprise-in-advanced-discussions-for-major-grant-to-complete-livingston-site/>)

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 29/01/2021** BBC News reports the Novavax vaccine shows 89.3% efficacy at preventing COVID-19 in participants in its Phase 3 clinical trial in the UK.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** Novavax
- **Relevant documents:** [COVID-19: Novavax vaccine shows 89% efficacy in UK trials - BBC News](https://www.science.org/content/article/novavax-vaccine-delivers-89-efficacy-against-COVID-19-uk-less-potent-south-africa)  
<https://www.science.org/content/article/novavax-vaccine-delivers-89-efficacy-against-COVID-19-uk-less-potent-south-africa>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 01/2/2021** Scottish Government announce mass vaccination centres will open in Edinburgh and Aberdeen on 1 February.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government

- **Relevant documents:** [Vaccine programme moves to next stage - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 03/2/2021** The [University of Dundee](#) launches the UK-wide [VAC4COVID](#) study to measure the safety and effectiveness of COVID vaccines as they are delivered, and appeals for volunteers to participate

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** University of Dundee
- **Relevant documents:** [Home page - VAC4COVID](#)  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-55922644>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 04/02/2021** SAGE data indicates that both natural and vaccine-induced immunity gives good (77%) level of protection around 2 weeks after exposure/vaccination.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 79 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 4 February 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1077\\_Vaccination\\_and\\_NPIs\\_Warwick.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1078\\_SPI-M\\_vaccination\\_ask\\_Imperial\\_College\\_.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

- **Commentary:** SAGE stress that even with a significant proportion of people vaccinated, lifting NPI's will likely cause resurgence.  
A single dose of Astra-Zeneca vaccine provides at least 90 days protection in 7 out of 10 people.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Assumed no correlation between vaccine uptake and at risk BAME populations

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 10/02/2021** Scottish Government announce the number of first dose vaccinations in Scotland reaches the 1 million milestone.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/one-million-people-vaccinated/>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 11/02/2021** SAGE assess the effect of lifting restrictions against vaccine coverage and uptake.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 80 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 11 February 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1112\\_CO-CIN\\_Tier\\_10\\_for\\_JCVI.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Impacts on hospitalisations, deaths and infections are particularly smaller when vaccination uptake is high in the most vulnerable groups.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Ethnicity specific testing and more Asian and Black children admitted to hospitals

**Key events (with dates): 11/02/2021** UK Government announce a further 353 Armed Forces personnel will be deployed to locations across Scotland to support the testing and vaccine delivery programmes.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Ministry of Defence, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland, The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP, The Rt Hon Alister Jack MP, and The Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
- **Relevant documents:** [Over 350 additional military personnel deployed in Scottish COVID response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 17/02/2021** Scottish government announce that there is 'hard evidence' vaccination reduces deaths from COVID-19

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Nicola Sturgeon
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-56098578>  
[PowerPoint Presentation \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/02/2021** SAGE models suggest that once all adults have been offered one dose of the vaccine restrictions may be eased.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 81 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 18 February 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** SAGE - delaying releasing of restrictions is unlikely to have a significant impact on the scale of resurgence.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/02/2021**

Scottish government consider the effects of vaccinating younger age groups and the use of vaccine certification.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes
- **Relevant documents:** [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 18 February 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 22/02/2021** Scottish Government announce people with underlying health conditions and unpaid carers are beginning to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI; Health Secretary Jeane Freeman

- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/next-stage-for-vaccine-programme/>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **Key decision 24/02/2021** JCVI has confirmed that everyone with a learning disability will now be prioritised for vaccination under group 6 of phase 1

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI

- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2021/february/people-learning-disabilities-be-prioritised-vaccinations>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **25/02/2021** SAGE state that the impact of vaccinations on reducing post- COVID syndromes is unclear.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 82 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 25 February 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/sage-82-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-25-february-2021)
- **Commentary:** Post-COVID syndromes can occur after mild disease and the effect of the vaccine on mild disease is also unclear.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 25/02/2021** Scottish Government announce Scotland's vaccination programme has delivered first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to a third (33.4%) of those eligible – more than 1.5 million people.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccines-delivered-to-a-third-of-scotlands-eligible-population/>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 26/02/2021** JCVI issues interim advice on Phase 2 of COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI, Department for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:** [JCVI issues interim advice on Phase 2 of COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-interim-advice-on-phase-2-of-covid-19-vaccination-programme-rollout)
- **Commentary:** Evidence suggests an age-based approach remains the most effective way of reducing death and hospitalisation from COVID-19
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Notes that BAME have a higher risk of hospitalisations but no discussion of refugees and asylum seekers



**Key events (with dates): 04/03/2021** MHRA announce modified COVID-19 vaccines for variants will be fast-tracked.  
And

**04/03/2021** Scottish government discuss anticipated problems with vaccine passports and concerns over variants.

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** MHRA; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Modified COVID-19 vaccines for variants to be fast-tracked, says MHRA and other regulators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 4 March 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 11/03/2021** SAGE say many of the people testing positive for COVID-19 after vaccination develop symptoms before immunity would be expected to have developed (<2 weeks). There is a modest decrease in vaccine efficacy against variant B.1.351.

And

**18/03/2021** Scottish government raise concerns over low vaccination rate in 50-59-year-olds.

Worries expressed over protection against B.1.351 variant.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccine delivery/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 83 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 11 March 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[S1143\\_Hospitalised\\_vaccinated\\_patients\\_during\\_the\\_second\\_wave\\_2\\_.pdf](#) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

[S1144\\_SAGE\\_Vaccine\\_Update\\_Group.pdf](#) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

[SPI-B\\_-\\_Severe\\_mental\\_illness\\_and\\_COVID-19\\_vaccination.pdf](#) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

[S1162\\_SPI-B\\_-\\_Behavioural\\_Considerations\\_for\\_Vaccine\\_Uptake\\_in\\_Phase\\_2.pdf](#) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](#))

[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 18 March 2021 - gov.scot](#) ([www.gov.scot](#))

[PowerPoint Presentation](#) ([www.gov.scot](#))

- **Commentary:** Vaccinated individuals will be hospitalised as the vaccine is not 100% effective.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Vaccine hesitancy highest among Black populations but no clear numbers on refugees and asylum seekers

**Key events (with dates): 11/03/2021** AstraZeneca COVID-19 shots stopped by several European nations amid blood clot reports, but EU regulator says no evidence of link

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety/ vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-vaccination-blood-clotting-information-for-healthcare-professionals/information-for-healthcare-professionals-on-blood-clotting-following-COVID-19-vaccination>
- **Commentary:** N/A
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 11/03/2021** JCVI advises prioritising homeless people and rough sleepers for the COVID-19 vaccine.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI; Public Health England
- **Relevant documents:** [JCVI advises prioritising homeless people and rough sleepers for COVID-19 vaccine-GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Letter from the Health and Social Care Secretary on COVID-19 vaccination phase 1 advice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Key event in relation to the timing of this prioritisation
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Focus on homeless populations but no discussion of refugees

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 15/03/2021** Chief medical officer for Scotland expresses confidence in Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine after reports of a possible link to blood clots across Europe

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Gregor Smith, Chief medical officer for Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56404312>
- **Commentary:** Key event in restoring the public's faith and ensuring smooth and consistent rollout of the vaccination strategy
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 15/03/2021** Scottish Government launch the coronavirus vaccine self- registration service for unpaid carers.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** [Launch of new vaccination campaign - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 17/03/2021** Scottish Government announce Scotland's vaccination programme has delivered first doses of the coronavirus vaccine to more than two million people – 44% of the adult population.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** [Vaccination programme reaches two million people - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key event 24/03/2021** Publication of the Scottish Government's second COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210930\\_vaccination.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210930_vaccination.pdf)
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** BAME community risk and uptake acknowledged

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 18/03/2021** UK regulator confirms that people should continue to receive the COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca.

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** MHRA; COVID-19 Expert Working Group of the Commission on Human Medicines;
- **Relevant documents:** [UK regulator confirms that people should continue to receive the COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-regulator-confirms-that-people-should-continue-to-receive-the-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca)
- **Commentary:** Following suspensions by some countries of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca over suspected blood clots, the MHRA confirms that the benefits of the vaccine in preventing COVID-19 far outweigh the risks
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 25/03/2021** SAGE express concern over importation of variants. JCVI provides further guidance on prioritisation of vaccines. ONS data reveals which groups are more likely to have vaccine hesitancy.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; JCVI; ONS
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 84 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 25 March 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-84-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-25-march-2021)
- **Commentary:** B.1.351 variants selective advantage is greater in a vaccinated population.  
Vaccines needed to decrease COVID infections among prisoners and staff – potential priority change.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Bangladeshi and Pakistani (Wave 2) highest rates of mortality.

**Key events (with dates):** **Key milestone 31/03/2021** SAGE modelling suggest that vaccination means high infection numbers will not result in as high levels of hospitalisations. And **01/04/2021** Scottish government data shows reduced hospitalisations, deaths and transmission due to vaccines.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Eighty-fifth SAGE meeting on COVID-19, 31 March 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 1 April 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)  
[PowerPoint Presentation \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** With high levels of vaccine uptake in the third wave, it is expected most deaths will occur in vaccinated people in older age groups due to a higher proportion of people being vaccinated. Most deaths will occur in those who are vaccinated.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **08/04/2021** SPI-M data shows that vaccination of older age groups has little effect on population wide transmission. As younger age groups are vaccinated a greater impact on transmission is expected. As settings begin to re-open vaccination is further encouraged.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SPI-M

- **Relevant documents:** **SAGE 86 minutes: Coronavirus (COVID- 19) response, 8 April 2021 - GOV.UK** ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))  
**S1190\_Ready\_reckoners\_under\_vaccination\_based\_on\_POLYMOD.pdf** ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))  
**S1189\_Bristol\_reckoners\_vaccination\_update.pdf** ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))  
**S1192\_Current\_environmental\_monitoring\_cannot\_constraint\_the\_effect\_of\_vaccines\_on\_SARS-CoV-2\_transmission\_Report\_for\_SAGE.pdf** ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Noted vaccine hesitancy in minority ethnic populations

**Key events (with dates):** **Key decision 08/04/2021** JCVI publish New advice regarding the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine following reports of extremely rare blood clots.

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** **New JCVI advice on use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine - GOV.UK** ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))  
**JCVI statement on use of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: 7 April 2021 - GOV.UK** ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- **Commentary:** Adults aged under 30 with no underlying conditions should be offered an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine where available.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 15/04/2021** Scottish government consider employing a new vaccine strategy to tackle the Kent variant.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 15 April 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Considerations of approaches to vaccination in different parts of the world and the effect on virus suppression.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 16/04/2021** JCVI publish new advice on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI, PHE, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
- **Relevant documents:** [JCVI issues new advice on COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant women - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Vaccine Pregnancy Registry | CDC](#)

<https://COVID-nma.com/vaccines/?comparison=544>

[https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/product-documents/living-evidence-syntheses/COVID-19-living-evidence-synthesis-6.29---what-is-the-efficacy-and-effectiveness-of-available-COVID-19-vaccines-in-general-and-specifically-for-variants-of-concern.pdf?sfvrsn=976fa3a5\\_5](https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/product-documents/living-evidence-syntheses/COVID-19-living-evidence-synthesis-6.29---what-is-the-efficacy-and-effectiveness-of-available-COVID-19-vaccines-in-general-and-specifically-for-variants-of-concern.pdf?sfvrsn=976fa3a5_5)

- **Commentary:** Pregnant women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and clinical risk group.



- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 21/04/2021** Johnson & Johnson announced publication in the New England Journal of Medicine of primary data from the Phase 3 ENSEMBLE clinical trial for its single-dose COVID-19 vaccine, developed by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen).

- **Topic:** Vaccine efficacy/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Johnson & Johnson
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2101544>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 22/04/2021** CO-CIN analysis shows few people develop COVID symptoms more than 3 weeks post vaccination (minimum 1 dose). SAGE considers the impact of unequal vaccination globally on the UK.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** CO-CIN/ SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 87 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 22 April 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1207\\_Hospitalised\\_vaccinated\\_patients\\_during\\_the\\_second\\_wave\\_SAGE\\_87.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1208\\_CO-CIN\\_report\\_on\\_impact\\_of\\_vaccination\\_Apr\\_21.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

- **Commentary:** SAGE note that ongoing transmission in other countries continues to pose a threat to UK health even when the epidemic is under control in this country and a high proportion of the population is vaccinated.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 26/04/2021** The number of second COVID vaccine doses gives passes 1 million. 2.8 million (61%) have now received at least one dose of the vaccine.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56890445>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 05/05/2021** SAGE suggest administration of further doses of current vaccines may maintain or boost protection for winter 2021/22.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 88 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 5 May 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94226/S1226_Setting_up_medium-_and_long-term_vaccine_strain_selection_and_immunity_management_for_SARS-CoV-21_.pdf)  
[S1226\\_Setting\\_up\\_medium-\\_and\\_long-term\\_vaccine\\_strain\\_selection\\_and\\_immunity\\_management\\_for\\_SARS-CoV-21\\_.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94226/S1226_Setting_up_medium-_and_long-term_vaccine_strain_selection_and_immunity_management_for_SARS-CoV-21_.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Vaccination may have a greater impact on transmission than previously assumed.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 07/05/2021** Everyone in JCVI priority groups 1-9 has been offered the first dose of a vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccination delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210930\\_vaccination.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210930_vaccination.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 07/05/2021** JCVI announce an alternative to the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccines should be offered to those under 40

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI; MRHA
- **Relevant documents:** [JCVI advises on COVID-19 vaccine for people aged under 40 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-advises-on-covid-19-vaccine-for-people-aged-under-40)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 13/05/2021** Early indications suggest that there may be reductions in immunity from vaccines/ past infection against variant B.1.617.2

And

**13/05/2021** Deaths from B.1.617.2 are mainly amongst the unvaccinated in Scotland but case rates are still low. Further consideration of vaccinating children.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 89 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 13 May 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 13 May 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Expert Advisory Team created including diverse audience (ethnic minorities).

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 15/05/2021** Scottish Government announce Scotland's [vaccination roll-out has reached two thirds of the eligible population.](#)

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government, Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/three-million-people-receive-first-vaccination/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 19/05/2021** Scottish Government **launches the COVID-19 vaccination status scheme**. The service will provide confirmation of vaccination when required for foreign travel.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-19-vaccination-status-scheme-launches/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 26/05/2021** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces the **priorities for the Scottish Government in the first 100 days**, including completing the vaccination of all adults (subject to supply)

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/priorities-government-statement-26-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 27/05/2021** PHE analysis indicates decreased vaccine effectiveness against the Delta variant B.1.617.2.

And

**27/05/2021** Scottish government data suggests that Delta has more impact than Alpha, currently no statistically significant difference on vaccine effect.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** PHE; SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** **SAGE 90 minutes: Coronavirus (COVID- 19) response, 27 May 2021 - GOV.UK** ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))  
**S1257\_SCWG\_Post\_Vaccination\_Mitigations.pdf** ([publishing.service.gov.uk](http://publishing.service.gov.uk))  
**Social Care Working Group consensus statement, March 2021 - GOV.UK** ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))  
**Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 27 May 2021 - gov.scot** ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))
- **Commentary:** Care homes remain more vulnerable to COVID-19 outbreaks even after residents have been vaccinated.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Discussion of care homes vulnerability but not refugee housing

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 28/05/2021**

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) **approves the one-dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine for use in the UK.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine development/ Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/one-dose-janssen-covid-19-vaccine-approved-by-the-mhra>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **Key milestone 30/05/2021** The number of people who have received 2 doses of the COVID vaccines passes 2 million.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-57300809>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **03/06/2021** CO-CIN analysis shows that older people are making up a decreasing proportion of those in hospital.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** CO-CIN; SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 91 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 3 June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1278\\_PHS\\_Strathclyde\\_SGene\\_Pos.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** CO-CIN analysis shows that older people are making up a decreasing proportion of those in hospital, demonstrating that vaccines are protecting against hospitalisations. Delaying further increases in contacts will allow more people to be vaccinated before transmission increases further due to Delta variant.

- Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A
- Further explanation/supporting documents:

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 04/06/2021**

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) **approves the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for use in 12- to 15-year-olds.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine development/ Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-mhra-concludes-positive-safety-profile-for-pfizerbiontech-vaccine-in-12-to-15-year-olds>
- **Commentary:**
- Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A
- Further explanation/supporting documents:

**Key events (with dates): 09/06/2021** SAGE report that most people who are in hospital are not fully vaccinated. Potential impacts of waning immunity and re- vaccination remain unclear.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 92 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 9 June 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-92-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-9-june-2021)
- **Commentary:**
- Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A
- Further explanation/supporting documents:



**Key events (with dates): 10/06/2021** Scottish government extends vaccine programme to anyone over 18. Evidence that vaccination shortens hospital stays.

Quarantine free travel considered for fully vaccinated.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 10 June 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Majority of students should have been offered their first vaccination in early autumn
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 11/06/2021** Scottish Government announce the expansion of the [national vaccination programme to include international students](#).

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, Universities Scotland Director Alastair Sim
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/expanding-the-national-vaccination-programme/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 13/06/2021** Scottish Government brings forward second vaccine doses for over- 40s to help combat Delta variant.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme

- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, NHS Scotland
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/bringing-forward-second-doses/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/06/2021** Trials for a third booster COVID vaccine begin in Glasgow.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-57477370>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 30/06/2021** JCVI issues interim advice on COVID-19 booster vaccination

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Public Health England
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-interim-advice-on-COVID-19-booster-vaccination>  
[https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness\\_Update-1-Report\\_2021.12.02.pdf](https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness_Update-1-Report_2021.12.02.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Any potential COVID-19 booster programme should be offered in 2 stages from September, starting with those most at risk from serious disease.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 02/07/2021** Scottish Government announce all mainland health boards will offer drop-in coronavirus vaccination clinics from Monday 5 July.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/drop-in-vaccine-clinics-in-every-mainland-health-board/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Drop-in Vaccination locations offered meaning refugee and asylum seekers could access vaccines.

**Key events (with dates): 07/07/2021** A CO-CIN analysis shows reductions in morbidity and mortality in hospital patients, due to the lower average age of patients and the impact of vaccination.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1001160/S1300\\_SA\\_GE\\_93\\_minutes\\_Coronavirus\\_COVID-19\\_response\\_7\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001160/S1300_SA_GE_93_minutes_Coronavirus_COVID-19_response_7_July_2021.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1001156/S1305\\_JUNIPER\\_Transitioning\\_from\\_non-pharmaceutical\\_interventions\\_to\\_vaccination\\_to\\_control\\_COVID-19\\_transmission.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1001156/S1305_JUNIPER_Transitioning_from_non-pharmaceutical_interventions_to_vaccination_to_control_COVID-19_transmission.pdf)

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key milestone 18/07/2021 Scottish Government announce **the vaccination programme will complete first doses for all over 18s** who have attended their scheduled appointments at close of play on Sunday 18 July.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/major-milestone-in-vaccination-programme/>
- **Commentary:** Second doses continue to be scheduled and it is expected all adults will have received them by Sunday 12 September.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key decision 19/07/2021 JCVI issues **advice on COVID-19 vaccination of** children aged 12-15 years old at increased risk of serious COVID-19 disease and 12 to 17 who live with an immunosuppressed person should be offered Pfizer- BioNTech vaccine.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-COVID-19-vaccination-of-children-and-young-people>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1009175/S1328\\_Vaccine\\_Effectiveness\\_table\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009175/S1328_Vaccine_Effectiveness_table_.pdf)

- **Commentary:** That includes children aged 12 to 15 with severe neurodisabilities, Down's syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities.

The JCVI also recommends that children and young people aged 12 to 17 who live with an immunosuppressed person should be offered the vaccine. This is to indirectly protect their immunosuppressed household contacts, who are at higher risk of serious disease from COVID-19 and may not generate a full immune response to vaccination.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 22/07/2021** SAGE reports that vaccines currently in use in the UK for COVID-19 are highly effective in protecting against severe disease and death.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1052577/S1345\\_SA\\_GE\\_94\\_Minutes\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052577/S1345_SA_GE_94_Minutes_1_.pdf)
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1009175/S1328\\_Vaccine\\_Effectiveness\\_table\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1009175/S1328_Vaccine_Effectiveness_table_.pdf)
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1007514/S1336\\_International\\_Vaccination\\_Potential\\_impact\\_on\\_viral\\_evolution\\_and\\_UK\\_public\\_health.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007514/S1336_International_Vaccination_Potential_impact_on_viral_evolution_and_UK_public_health.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1007573/S1332\\_How\\_long\\_will\\_vaccines\\_continue\\_to\\_protect\\_against\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1007573/S1332_How_long_will_vaccines_continue_to_protect_against_COVID-19.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1012336/S1330\\_ONS\\_Vaccine\\_effectiveness\\_and\\_breakthrough.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1012336/S1330_ONS_Vaccine_effectiveness_and_breakthrough.pdf)

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 23/07/2021** Publication of the Scottish Government's third COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210930\\_vaccination.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210930_vaccination.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Increase in vaccination centres; Community centres and GP practices.-- Increase access to refugee and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 01/08/2021** Scottish Government announce Children and young people aged 12- 17 from key groups **to be offered COVID-19 vaccine.**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-young-people-with-certain-conditions/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key milestone **04/08/2021** Scottish Government announce all young people 16 to 17 years of age **to be offered the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination in Scotland** from 6 August.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-16-to-17-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **05/08/2021** The group noted a high vaccine uptake, but striving for the highest possible level was emphasised. International approaches to vaccine certification were discussed.

- **Topic:** Vaccine passports/ Vaccine uptake
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-5-august-2021-2/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-statement-3-august-2021-1/>

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 17/08/2021** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) **approves the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** for use in 12- 17 year olds.

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/moderna-COVID-19-vaccine-approved-by-mhra-in-12-17-year-olds>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 21/08/2021** CMO urges pregnant women to get vaccinated.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Chief Medical Officer Dr Gregor Smith
- **Relevant documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/01/28/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key events (with dates): 23/08/2021 UK Government signs deal with Pfizer/BioNTech for 35 million vaccines.** The doses will be delivered from the second half of 2022.

- **Topic:** Vaccine procurement
- **Main body/person involved:** Department of Health and Social Care, Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-deal-with-pfizerbiontech-for-35-million-vaccines>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key milestone 23/08/2021** 40% of all 16-and 17- year-olds in Scotland have received their first dose of COVID-19

Key events (with dates): vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-58309730>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 01/09/2021** Scottish Government announce **proposals for Coronavirus vaccination certificates** as a requirement for entry to certain events and higher risk venues.

In addition, QR Code digital vaccination certificates for international travel will be available from 3 September 2021.

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/person involved:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Government

- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-19-vaccination-certification/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 01/09/2021** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) publish guidance advising that people who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose of the vaccine **should be offered a third dose.**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Public Health England
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-third-dose-vaccination-for-severely-immunosuppressed>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 03/09/2021** JCVI issue **updated advice on COVID-19 vaccination of children aged 12 to 15**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Public Health England
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-COVID-19-vaccination-of-children-aged-12-to-15>
- **Commentary:** Health benefits from vaccination are

marginally greater than the potential known harms. However, the margin of benefit is considered too small to support universal vaccination of healthy 12 to 15 year olds at this time.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 09/09/2021** SAGE reported that there is evidence from real-world data in England of waning of vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease from approximately 10 weeks after second dose.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1017296/S1360\\_SAGE\\_95\\_minutes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017296/S1360_SAGE_95_minutes.pdf)
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1017309/S1362\\_PHE\\_duration\\_of\\_protection\\_of\\_COVID-19\\_vaccines\\_against\\_clinical\\_disease.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017309/S1362_PHE_duration_of_protection_of_COVID-19_vaccines_against_clinical_disease.pdf)
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1017253/S1359\\_VE\\_EP\\_Vaccine\\_Effectiveness\\_Table\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1017253/S1359_VE_EP_Vaccine_Effectiveness_Table_1_.pdf)
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1018555/S1363\\_Hospital\\_Admission\\_for\\_COVID-19\\_and\\_impact\\_of\\_vaccination.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1018555/S1363_Hospital_Admission_for_COVID-19_and_impact_of_vaccination.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 09/09/2021** Scottish Parliament approves [vaccine certification plans](#).

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government, NHS Scotland; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-certification-plans-approved-by-scottish-parliament/>
- **Commentary:** From Friday 1 October, Coronavirus vaccination certificates will be required to enter events such as nightclubs, music festivals and some football grounds.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** The need for vaccination certifications could disproportionately impact refugees and asylum seekers who have challenges accessing vaccinations.

**Key events (with dates): 09/09/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group note JCVI advice on vaccinating 12–15- year-olds.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-9-september-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 12/09/2021** Everyone aged 18 years and over has been offered the second dose of a vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210930\\_vaccination.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210930_vaccination.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Conducted outreach work for asylum seekers and refugees to increase vaccine uptake

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 13/09/2021** Scottish Government announce children and young people aged 12 - 15 years old will be **offered a dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine** from Monday 20 September.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Chief Medical Office Dr Gregor Smith, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-12-15-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/09/2021** Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) publishes a **regulatory update on the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme** for winter 2021-22.

- **Topic:** Vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-statement-on-COVID-19-booster-vaccines>  
[https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness\\_Update-1-Report\\_2021.12.02.pdf](https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness_Update-1-Report_2021.12.02.pdf)  
<https://COVID-nma.com/vaccines/?comparison=544>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 14/09/2021** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) publish guidance advising that booster vaccines **be offered to those more at risk from serious disease**, and who were vaccinated during Phase 1 of the vaccine programme.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-COVID-19-booster-vaccination>
- **Commentary:** Vaccines offered to the most Vulnerable
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key milestone 20/09/2021 Scottish Government launch the **COVID-19 booster vaccination programme**.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-19-booster-vaccinations-underway/>
- **Commentary:** Residents in care homes for older people are the first to be offered COVID-19 booster vaccinations. Injections will be given alongside flu jab where appropriate.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** 27/09/2021 Scottish Government announce all 12-15 year olds who haven't yet received their COVID-19 vaccination will **receive letters of offer** from Monday 27 September

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, Department for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-appointments-for-12-15-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 30/09/2021** Scottish Government publish an **updated 2021 vaccination strategy**, including plans for COVID-19 and seasonal influenza (flu) vaccinations in autumn and winter 2021 to 2022 in Scotland.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Department for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-autumn-winter-vaccination-strategy-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 30/09/2021** Scottish Government announce **Invitations for coronavirus (COVID-19) booster injections** are issued to people aged 70 and over and those aged 16 and over who are at highest risk, with appointments scheduled from the week beginning 4 October.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI),
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-programme-progression/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key events (with dates): 01/10/2021** The Scottish Government's vaccination certification scheme is **in operation from 1 October**.

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-certification-scheme-introduced/>
- **Commentary:** People attending certain late night venues and larger indoor and outdoor live events will be required to show staff proof of their COVID status or a valid exemption.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/10/2021** SAGE reported that there is some evidence that vaccine certification may have a positive impact on vaccine uptake, particularly in younger age groups

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1027514/S1381\\_SA\\_GE\\_96\\_minutes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027514/S1381_SA_GE_96_minutes.pdf)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1027643/S1401\\_University\\_of\\_Oxford\\_and\\_Nuffield\\_College\\_The\\_impact\\_of\\_mandatory\\_COVID-19\\_certificates\\_on\\_vaccine\\_uptake\\_Synthetic\\_Control\\_Modelling\\_of\\_Six\\_Countries\\_14\\_October\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027643/S1401_University_of_Oxford_and_Nuffield_College_The_impact_of_mandatory_COVID-19_certificates_on_vaccine_uptake_Synthetic_Control_Modelling_of_Six_Countries_14_October_2021.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/10/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group note a need to keep vaccination at a very high level

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-14-october-2021/>
- **Commentary:** JCVI to make key decisions. Vaccine waning identified as a key issue, EAVE data should provide warning signal. Vaccination rates in pregnant women identified as low.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/10/2021** Scottish Government announce the Coronavirus **vaccine certification scheme** has become subject to enforcement.

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Scottish Government, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-certification-enforcement-gets-underway/>
- **Commentary:** People attending a range of late night venues and larger indoor and outdoor live events, such as music festivals or large sporting events, will be required to show staff proof they are fully vaccinated or are otherwise exempt.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 18/10/2021** Valneva SE a specialty vaccine company, announced positive results from the Phase 3 pivotal trial Cov- Compare of its inactivated, adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

- **Topic:** Vaccine efficacy/ vaccine safety
- **Main body/person involved:** Valneva
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.bmj.com/content/375/bmj.n2551>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 22/10/2021** Figures from Public Health Scotland show 50.2% of all 12-to-15- year-olds have had their first COVID vaccination

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59013595>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 25/10/2021** Invitations for the flu and COVID-19 Booster vaccination programmes **begin for the next eligible groups.**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/flu-and-COVID-19-vaccine-roll-out/>
- **Commentary:** Invitation letters for people aged 60 to 69 and adults aged 16 and over with underlying health conditions are sent out from 25 October.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 29/10/2021** Scottish (and other UK) COVID status certificates **are adopted into the European Union's Digital COVID Certificate (EU DCC) scheme.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/person involved:** European Commission, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-COVID-certificates-accepted-by-the-eu/>
- **Commentary:** From 1 November, COVID status certificates will be recognised by more than 40 countries. All EU DCC member countries will have their full certificates recognised and verifiable in Scotland.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Refugees and asylum seekers may face barriers (such as digital exclusion, access to documentation, or fear of engaging with public authorities) which may make it more challenging for them to obtain COVID certificates.

**Key events (with dates): 29/10/2021** Flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme - autumn/winter 2021-2022: equality impact assessment was published

- **Topic:** Impact on equalities
- **Main body/person involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/vaccination-programme-autumn-winter-2021-2022-flu-COVID-19-equality-impact-assessment/pages/11/>

- **Commentary:** An equality impact assessment (EQIA) for the autumn/winter 2021-2022 Flu and COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Impact assessment reflected the role of outreach clinics, e.g. in local mosques, as helping to reach “populations of undocumented migrants who would never have attended mass vaccination sites”

**Key events (with dates):** **Key decision 01/11/2021** Scottish Government announce the **military will support the national Autumn/Winter vaccination programme**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Members of the Armed Forces/ Military, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/increasing-vaccination-capacity/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **12/11/2021** Scottish Government announce that people who took part in trials for COVID-19 vaccines which have not yet been authorised for use in the UK **will be able to request an additional primary course of approved vaccinations.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine trials
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), Chief Medical Officer
- Dr Gregor Smith, Scottish Government

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccine-trials/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key decision 15/11/2021 JCVI issues [advice on COVID-19 booster vaccines for those aged 40 to 49 and second doses for 16 to 17 year olds.](#)

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI, Public Health England
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-COVID-19-booster-vaccines-for-those-aged-40-to-49-and-second-doses-for-16-to-17-year-olds>
- **Commentary:** All adults aged 40 to 49 years should be offered an mRNA booster, 6 months after their second dose, irrespective of the vaccines given for the first and second doses. All 16 to 17 year olds who are not in an at-risk group should be offered a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. The second vaccine dose should be given 12 weeks or more following the first vaccine dose.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** 15/11/2021 Scottish Government launch an [online portal for the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme.](#)

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/online-portal-for-autumnwinter-vaccination-programme/>

- **Commentary:** The portal allows people aged 50 to 59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals to book their booster and flu jabs
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Online portal may increase access for some, but challenges may still exist.

**Key events (with dates): 19/11/2021** The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group highlights the importance of maximising booster uptake.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme/ Vaccine passports
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-19-november-2021/>
- **Commentary:** The effect of vaccine passports on different groups' uptake is discussed, and an emphasis is put on the engagement of different groups to improve uptake.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 24/11/2021** More than one and a half million third doses and boosters administered by the [Autumn/Winter vaccination programme](#).

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf, JCVI
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/autumnwinter-vaccination-milestone/>
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 25/11/2021** Data from the World Health Organisation shows that Scotland's vaccine programme helped to prevent more than 27,000 COVID-related deaths

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** WHO
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59416242>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 27/11/2021** Scottish Government announce the [online portal for booking COVID-19 booster appointments](#) will open for people aged 40-49 years old.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** NHS Scotland, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/booster-jab-roll-out-continues/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key events (with dates): 28/11/2021** Advice is issued by Public Health expert Linda Bauld suggesting the gap between a second vaccine and booster vaccine should be shortened to tackle the Omicron variant

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Prof Linda Bauld
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59451370>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 29/11/2021** JCVI issues advice on [COVID-19 booster vaccines for those aged 18 to 39 and a second dose for ages 12 to 15](#).

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-advice-on-covid-19-booster-vaccines-for-those-aged-18-to-39-and-a-second-dose-for-ages-12-to-15>
- **Commentary:** The booster will now be given 3 months after the primary course. In addition, a second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for young people aged 12 to 15 years is advised 12 weeks after the first dose.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 29/11/2021** SAGE reported that booster vaccinations have been shown to produce very strong antibody responses (high confidence).

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness

- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1037831/SAGE\\_97\\_Minutes\\_29\\_November\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1037831/SAGE_97_Minutes_29_November_2021.pdf)
- **Commentary:** They are likely to provide protection against severe disease, hospitalization and death from most variants at least in the short term, with protection against severe disease remaining higher than protection against infection.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 02/12/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group notes no reliable data on the effect of boosters on omicron.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-2-december-2021/>
- **Commentary:** Need for laboratory studies on immune responses. Need to go early on vaccination, boosters may reduce impact of omicron, depending on immune escape.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 07/12/2021** SAGE has noted that Laboratory neutralisation data will give an early indication of vaccine protection against Omicron): infection over the next week

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1043858/S146\\_2\\_EA\\_VEII\\_SPI-M.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1043858/S146_2_EA_VEII_SPI-M.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **Key milestone 08/12/2021** One-year anniversary of the **first COVID-19 vaccination in Scotland.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Department for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/one-year-of-COVID-19-vaccinations/>
- **Commentary:** Since then, 4,355,063 first doses, 3,962,203 second doses and 1,922,604 boosters and third doses have been administered from around 1,200 locations.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** **09/12/2021** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon writes to the Prime Minister Boris Johnson regarding international vaccine inequity.

- **Topic:** Vaccine inequity
- **Main body/person involved:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/action-on-vaccine-inequity/>

- **Commentary:** **The letter asks the UK Government to support a temporary waiver of obligations to protect Intellectual Property for COVID- 19 vaccines.**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**  
**Key events (with dates): 09/12/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group notes data from EAVE-II/PHS showing lower protection against omicron.
- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-9-december-2021/>
- **Commentary:** Comments on uncertainty over vaccine protection, but boosters could have strong impact on omicron wave.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 14/12/2021** Scottish Government announce **steps to accelerate booster programme.**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government, NHS Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/steps-to-accelerate-booster-programme/>
- **Commentary:** The online booking portal will be open to everyone aged 18-29 from 15 December and the waiting period following vaccination will be reduced from 15 minutes to five minutes.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 15/12/2021** Scottish Government announce the **number of military staff assisting with the autumn/winter vaccination programme has been increased to support the acceleration of the booster roll-out.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Military, Health Secretary Humza Yousaf
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/boosting-support-for-the-vaccination-programme/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 16/12/2021** SAGE reported that precise vaccine efficacy against severe disease and death from Omicron remains uncertain due to the small numbers of severe outcomes to date.

And

**17/12/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group notes minutes from SPI-M and SAGE, showing boosters will help but not stem the omicron wave; more data on vaccine efficacy is needed.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-17-december-2021/>

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key decision 17/12/2021 Scottish Government publish the [December update of the autumn/winter vaccination strategy 2021](#), which includes a progress report and accelerated delivery plans in response to the Omicron Variant

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-autumn-winter-vaccination-strategy-progress-report-accelerated-delivery-plans-response-omicron-variant-december-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** Key decision 22/12/2021 Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issues [updated guidance on vaccinations for 5 to 11 year olds](#).

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-new-vaccination-advice-for-children-and-young-people>

- **Commentary:** It recommends that those who are in a clinical risk group or are a household contact of someone who is immunosuppressed, should be offered a primary course of vaccination. In addition, booster vaccinations are recommended for 16-17 year olds and 12-15 year olds that are in a clinical risk group or severely immunocompromised and have had a third primary dose.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** How would refugee and asylum seekers who are immunosuppressed be contacted for vaccinations? This would be a particular issue if they were not already known to healthcare services.

#### **Key events (with dates): Key milestone 22/12/2021**

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) **approves a new formulation of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty)** for use in children aged 5 to 11 years

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency(MHRA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-regulator-approves-use-of-pfizerbiontech-vaccine-in-5-to-11-year-olds>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 23/12/2021** SAGE reported that booster vaccine rollout remains very important.

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-101-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-december-2021/sage-101-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-december-2021>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 23/12/2021** More than 70% of eligible adults in Scotland **have received their booster or third dose.**

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/progress-for-booster-programme/>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1043858/S146\\_2\\_EAVEII\\_SPI-M.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1043858/S146_2_EAVEII_SPI-M.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 27/12/2021**

Vaccination centres reopen in a bid to get 80% of the population to receive their booster vaccine before the new year

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59801498>
- **Commentary:**



- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 31/12/2021** The latest figures from the Scottish Government show more than three quarters of adults in Scotland have received their booster vaccine

- **Topic:** Vaccine delivery
- **Main body/person involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59840464>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 02/01/2022** Scottish Government brings forward **second doses for young people.** Following JCVI advice, 12-15 year olds can get their second vaccination from 12 weeks after their first dose.

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-vaccine-for-12-15-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 07/01/2022** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advise **there is no immediate need to introduce a second booster dose, or fourth jab, to the most vulnerable.**

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme

- **Main body/person involved:** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-continue-to-provide-high-levels-of-protection-against-severe-disease-from-omicron-in-older-adults>  
[https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness\\_Update-1-Report\\_2021.12.02.pdf](https://sporevidencealliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Waning-Vaccine-Effectiveness_Update-1-Report_2021.12.02.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The JCVI also advise that priority should continue to be given to rolling out first booster doses to all age groups.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates):** 07/01/2022 **New report published from the Health Security Agency (UKHSA)** on the effectiveness of 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccines against symptomatic COVID-19 and hospitalisation in adults aged 65 years and older.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** Health Security Agency (UKHSA)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/338928724/Effectiveness+of+3+doses+of+COVID-19+vaccines+against+symptomatic+COVID-19+and+hospitalisation+in+adults+aged+65+years+and+older.pdf/ab8f3558-1e16-465c-4b92-56334b6a832a>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 07/01/2022** SAGE reports that probability of ICU admissions is much higher in the unvaccinated population.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 102 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 7 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[S1479\\_Imperial\\_Severity.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Boosters are highly effective. Vaccination rates in pregnant women remain low relative to the wider population.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 11/01/2022** EAVE-II study shows vaccines are less effective against Omicron when compared with Delta variant. Uptake of vaccines in children and health care workers continues to be important.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government; COVID-19 advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 11 January 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** There is waning of protection against both the Omicron and Delta variant.  
CNRG noted the importance of optimising the uptake of vaccination and booster uptake in healthcare workers, particularly for staff in long term care settings and ensuring that inpatients in long term settings had received booster vaccinations.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 13/01/2022** Delta variant is at low levels partly due to the booster programme. Encouraging vaccination in pregnant women remains a priority. CO-CIN data shows no vaccinated 12 to 17- year-olds in HDU or ICU compared to 20 unvaccinated in the same age group.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE; CO-CIN
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 103 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 13 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-103-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-13-january-2022)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 18/01/2022** Scottish Government announce [children aged five to 11 years old with specific medical conditions will start receiving invitations for their first COVID-19 vaccination.](https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-youngsters-with-specific-medical-conditions/)

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** Department for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-youngsters-with-specific-medical-conditions/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 28/01/2022** SAGE has previously advised that increased international vaccination coverage is important for overall control of the pandemic and would also reduce the risk to the UK. ONS reports on risk based on ethnicity.

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness/ Vaccination programme/ Vaccine inequality
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [SAGE 104 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) response, 28 January 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sage-104-minutes-coronavirus-covid-19-response-28-january-2022)
- **Commentary:** Increased risk is no longer observed in those of Black African or Caribbean background after controlling for vaccination status.  
Some elevated risk for those of Pakistani or Bangladeshi backgrounds is, however, still seen even after controlling for vaccination status.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Ethnicity differences still exist after vaccination. But refugees and asylum seekers not specifically considered in this context.

**Key events (with dates): 03/02/2022** Novavax vaccine is approved by MHRA

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/person involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/novavax-COVID-19-vaccine-nuvaxovid-approved-by-mhra](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/novavax-covid-19-vaccine-nuvaxovid-approved-by-mhra)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 16/02/2022** The Scottish government has confirmed it will offer COVID vaccinations to all children aged five to 11 years

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI; Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60402499>
- **Commentary:** The Scottish decision follows an announcement on 15/02/2022 from the devolved government in Wales that it would follow unpublished advice from the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) that all children in that age group should be jabbed.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 21/02/2022** Valneva has been awarded £20m in funding from Scottish Enterprise

- **Topic:** Vaccine development
- **Main body/person involved:** Valneva, Scottish Enterprise
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60464559>
- **Commentary:** With up to £12.5m, to be used for the research and development of Valneva's COVID-19 vaccine candidate.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 21/02/2022** JCVI advises that second booster jabs will be offered to those aged 75 and over and those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/person involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/second-boosters-for-at-risk-groups/>

- **Commentary:** Second booster jabs will be offered to those aged 75 and over and those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease following the latest Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice.  
To protect those groups a spring booster dose will be offered at least 24 weeks after the last vaccine dose to:  
adults aged 75 years and over  
residents in care homes for older adults  
individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

## **Vaccinations: Timeline 2022**

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**Key event (date):** 2nd January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, JCVI
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-vaccine-for-12-15-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government brings forward second doses for young people. Following JCVI advice, 12–15-year-olds can get their second vaccination from 12 weeks after their first dose.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-59848471>
- **Commentary:** Second vaccine walk-in clinics open for those aged 12–15 who had their first vaccine twelve or more weeks ago, with them being urged to make an appointment for the vaccine before returning to school.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme, vaccine effectiveness, vaccine mandates
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI, UKHSA, CMO
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosters-continue-to-provide-high-levels-of-protection-against-severe-disease-from-omicron-in-older-adults>  
<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/338928724/Effectiveness+of+3+ doses+of+COVID-19+vaccines+against+symptomatic+COVID-19+and+hospitalisation+in+adults+aged+65+years+and+older.pdf/ab8f3558-1e16-465c-4b92-56334b6a832a>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-fertility-treatment-for-unvaccinated-patients/pages/deferral-of-fertility-treatment-january-2022/>



- **Commentary:** JCVI advise there is no immediate need to introduce a second booster dose, or fourth jab, to the most vulnerable. The JCVI also advised that priority should continue to be given to rolling out first booster doses to all age groups.

New report published from the UKHSA on the effectiveness of 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccines against symptomatic COVID-19 and hospitalisation in adults aged 65 years and older.

CMO writes to health boards on the temporary deferral of fertility treatment for patients not fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine effectiveness
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-11-january-2022/>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group was shown data from the EAVE-II study. Within this study, analysis of data on vaccine effectiveness remains unaffected by changes in testing as this always relied on symptomatic PCR tests, though other analyses will be impacted by this change in testing policy. For all groups there are slightly higher hazard ratios for Omicron, meaning the protection against infection from vaccines is not as effective as against Delta. There is a very large reduction in risk for those vaccinated compared to being unvaccinated.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60014556>
- **Commentary:** Covid regulations in Scotland are relaxed to allow large outdoor events such as football matches with spectators, to resume, but they require at least 50% of the crowd to be checked for vaccine certificates.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme, vaccine mandates
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, North Sea energy firm
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-youngsters-with-specific-medical-conditions/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-60042092>

- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce children aged five to 11 years old with specific medical conditions will start receiving invitations for their first COVID-19 vaccination. North Sea energy firm Canadian Natural Resources issues a statement confirming it will only allow members of staff who are vaccinated to work on its offshore facilities. The announcement is branded as "draconian" by the Unite trade union
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination equality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13192/22-02-02-covid19-winter\\_publication\\_report.pdf](https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13192/22-02-02-covid19-winter_publication_report.pdf)
- **Commentary:** PHS published a winter update to the COVID-19 Statistical report with refreshment of the Equality of COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake data by ethnicity
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Extensive information on ethnic variations in vaccine uptake but nothing specifically on refugees/asylum seekers.

**Key event (date):** 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation Vaccine effectiveness,
- **Main body/persons involved:** UK Government, MHRA, Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/novavax-COVID-19-vaccine-nuvaxovid-approved-by-mhra>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-3-february-2022/>

- **Commentary:** UK Government announce the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine Nuvaxovid has been approved by MHRA. Early studies show the same effectiveness of vaccines on BA.2 and no increase of hospitalisations in Denmark suggests the same. Work continues on evaluating vaccine effectiveness & waning – booster effectiveness remains high for mortality and hospitalisation.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/flu-vaccination-programme-success/>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce flu vaccinations are on offer again until the end of March for those in high-risk groups (the programme was paused in December so that health boards could prioritise the delivery of COVID-19 booster jabs).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS Grampian

- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-60295074>
- **Commentary:** NHS Grampian confirms that 42 people were mistakenly given out-of-date doses of a vaccine at a vaccination centre, but say the vaccine is safe and should still offer some protection
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Charity watchdogs, Christadelphian Ecclesia
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))
- **Commentary:** Charity watchdogs launch an investigation into the Christadelphian Ecclesia group following complaints about "disturbing" messages concerning the LGBT community and anti-vaccine propaganda.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-updates-advice-on-vaccinations-for-5-to-11-age-group>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/siren-study>

- **Commentary:** JCVI updates advice on vaccinations for 5 to 11 age group. The committee recommends a non-urgent offer to all 5 to 11 year olds of 2 (10mcg) doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech paediatric vaccine. The 2 doses should be given with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses. SIREN study published which found that 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine were associated with high short- term protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection but that this protection reduced considerably after 6 months. This provided important insights for COVID- 19 vaccination programmes.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI, Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/second-boosters-for-at-risk-groups/>
- **Commentary:** Second booster jabs will be offered to those aged 75 and over and those at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease following the latest JCVI advice.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine certification, vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Government

- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-speech-tuesday-22-february-2022/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccinations-for-all-five-to-11-year-olds/>
- **Commentary:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announces vaccine certification will no longer be legally required from Monday 28 February. Current legal requirements on the use of face coverings and the collection of customer details for contact tracing purposes are expected to be lifted on 21 March.  
Scottish Government announce children aged 5-11 to be offered COVID-19 vaccination appointments in community clinics from 19 March 2022.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine mandates
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/nhs-fertility-treatment-to-resume-for-unvaccinated-women/>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce women who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be able to resume NHS fertility treatment, following an updated review.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/spring-rollout-of-boosters-begins/>
- **Commentary:** Spring booster jabs will be offered to those aged 75 and over and people at highest risk of severe COVID- 19 disease from tomorrow.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-60637961>
- **Commentary:** Scotland begins offering a second COVID booster vaccine to older care home residents, people aged over 75, and those over 12 who have a suppressed immune system.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



**Key event (date):** 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination equality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11979/pr\\_a\\_annua\\_l-monitoring-report-on-ethnic-health-inequalities.pdf](https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11979/pr_a_annua_l-monitoring-report-on-ethnic-health-inequalities.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Published the Monitoring ethnic health inequalities in Scotland during COVID-19 report
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Refugee and asylum seekers are identified as a group who have individual needs to be addressed.

**Key event (date):** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-covid19-recovery-committee/correspondence/2022/public-health-scotland-vaccine-surveillance-data>
- **Commentary:** Due to the increasing risk of misinterpretation from growing complexities as the COVID-19 pandemic enters its second year, PHS has taken the decision to no longer report COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths by vaccination status on a weekly basis.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/evusheld-approved-to-prevent-COVID-19-in-people-whose-immune-response-is-poor>
- **Commentary:** MHRA approve the use of Evusheld (tixagevimab/cilgavimab) for use on adults who are unlikely to mount an immune response from COVID-19 vaccination or for whom vaccination is not recommended.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS Lothian
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022))  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-60996768>
- **Commentary:** NHS Lothian apologises for an "admin error" after parents of healthy children were sent letters inviting them to have COVID vaccines because they were described as being clinically vulnerable
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>
- **Commentary:** MHRA approves the use of the Valneva COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 11th May, 2022

**Topic:** Vaccination uptake, Vaccine equality

- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
[https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13184/2-05-11-covid19-publication\\_report.pdf](https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13184/2-05-11-covid19-publication_report.pdf)  
Correction of-  
[https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13192/22-02-02-covid19-winter\\_publication\\_report.pdf](https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/13192/22-02-02-covid19-winter_publication_report.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Publication of equality of uptake of the COVID-19 vaccinations in Scotland updated with corrected figures (error in assigning ethnicity) in the PHS COVID-19 Statistical report from Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- For all individuals aged 16+ years, vaccine uptake is lowest in the African ethnic group at 41.7%
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 19th May 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine uptake, vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI, Scottish Government

- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/COVID-19-vaccine-barriers-incentives-uptake-literature-review/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-provides-interim-advice-on-an-autumn-COVID-19-booster-programme>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-provides-interim-advice-on-an-autumn-COVID-19-booster-programme>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government publishes a literature review on barriers and incentives to the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines.  
 JCVI issues interim advice on an autumn COVID-19 booster programme.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** COVID-19
- Recovery Committee
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/CVDR-26-05-2022?meeting=13793&iob=125047>
- **Commentary:** MHRA could have discussed the judgement criteria regarding vaccine choice. More transparent information could have been provided to reduce population anxiety and impacts of social media misinformation.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** n/a
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 31st May 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme, vaccine inequality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Danny Boyle, BEMIS, Senior parliamentary and policy officer, co-ordinating the ethnic minority national resilience network
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/HSCS-31-05-2022?meeting=13798&iob=125124>
- **Commentary:** BEMIS report- Lack of ethnicity data collection at vaccination campaigns resulted in challenge of resource direction.
- With vaccine information translations, overcomplicated language was sometimes used.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Report highlights challenges to minoritised communities.

**Key event (date):** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine equity
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish and Welsh Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-vaccine-equity-joint-statement-with-welsh-government/>

- **Commentary:** Scottish Government issues a joint statement with the Welsh Government urging the UK Government to back a temporary waiver of intellectual property protections for COVID-19 vaccines, to help expand equitable global access to safe and effective vaccines.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** UK government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>
- **Commentary:** The UK Government announces that core functions of the Vaccine Taskforce will merge with UK Health Security Agency and the Office for Life Sciences in the autumn.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr\\_220616\\_financial\\_response\\_to\\_covid.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr_220616_financial_response_to_covid.pdf) June 16 2022
- **Commentary:** In the report on Scotland's financial response to Covid 19. The Scottish Government's decision-making framework focused its pandemic response on four harms and NHS Louisa Jordan spent 57 million in vaccinations/ booking system in 2020/21

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Government, COVID-19 recovery committee
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-23-06-2022?meeting=13840&iob=125522#125522>
- **Commentary:** As of 20 June, 91 per cent of those aged 75 and over, and 86 per cent of elderly care home residents, have received a fourth dose of the Covid vaccine, the majority of which have been administered as part of the Spring Booster Programme
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine information, vaccine inequality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Dr Sally Witcher OBE
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/CVDR-23-06-2022?meeting=13843&iob=125546>
- **Commentary:** COVID-19 public health messaging was not adequately targeted at different groups. No information on waning vaccine protection, EVUSHELD and autumn boosters

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine inequality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Sandesh Gulhane
- <https://www.parliament.scot/msps/current-and-previous-msps/dr-sandesh-gulhane>
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/HSCS-28-06-2022?meeting=13861&iob=125692>  
[https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11979/pr\\_a\\_nnuu\\_l-monitoring-report-on-ethnic-health-inequalities.pdf](https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/11979/pr_a_nnuu_l-monitoring-report-on-ethnic-health-inequalities.pdf)
- **Commentary:** No information leaflets available in Hindi in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area.
- No specific information on certain communities in the PHS Monitoring ethnic health inequalities in Scotland during COVID-19
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Lacking information in various languages which impacts the accessibility of the vaccine.

**Key event (date):** 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>



<https://www.gov.scot/news/autumnwinter-COVID-19-booster-programme/>

- **Commentary:** A further booster vaccination will be offered from September to those at highest risk of severe COVID- 19 disease including: older adult care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care workers, all adults aged 50 and over, those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women, household contacts of people with immunosuppression, and carers aged 16-49 years.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 11 August 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine uptake
  - **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
  - **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/vaccines-research-looking-people-vaccinated-not/documents/>
  - **Commentary:** The Scottish Government publishes research looking at why some people chose to take up the COVID-19 and flu vaccinations and some did not.
  - **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** Key milestone 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/first-bivalent-COVID-19-booster-vaccine-approved-by-uk-medicines-regulator>

- **Commentary:** MHRA approves the use of an adapted Moderna vaccine for adult booster doses in the UK. The first bivalent COVID-19 vaccine targets both the original virus strain from 2020 and the Omicron strain.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-advises-use-of-additional-bivalent-vaccine-for-autumn-booster-campaign>
- **Commentary:** The JCVI updates its published advice to include an additional bivalent vaccine now approved by the MHRA.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/winter-vaccines-programme-begins/>

- **Commentary:** Scotland's winter vaccine programme gets underway. Both new bivalent vaccines will be deployed alongside existing vaccines.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 6th September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-08-09-2022?meeting=13878&iob=125841>
- **Commentary:** 440 smaller local clinics offering vaccinations to facilitate people facing access barriers
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 8th September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Dr. Nick Phin Organisational lead for strategic engagement and policy at Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/CVDR-08-09-2022?meeting=13886&iob=125865>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government has provided funding to PHS for 2022-23 in relation to the vaccination programme, surveillance, and a small team that will be used to investigate variants and mutations.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 8th September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination inequality
- **Main body/persons involved:** Carolyn Low Director of finance, at NHS National Services Scotland
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/CVDR-08-09-2022?meeting=13886&iob=125865>
- **Commentary:** A more cost-effective approach to vaccine delivery (eg.-digital bookings) could undermine the Strategic Framework through reduced or delayed vaccine uptake excluding the most vulnerable people.
- Alternative to use National Contact Centre suggested
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme Vaccination equity
- **Main body/persons involved:** UKHSA NHS
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-30-million-people-urged-to-take-up-vital-flu-and-COVID-19-vaccines>  
<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/HSCS/2022/9/28/c2d290be-c302-4d47-8443-90394391f0bd-4/HSCS062022R11.pdf>

- **Commentary:** UKHSA urges everyone eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster to take up the offer as soon as possible ahead of what could be a difficult winter with respiratory viruses circulating widely.  
NHS Lothian's integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) of its COVID-19 vaccination programme to identify those most likely to encounter barriers in accessing vaccinations with a view to overcoming those barriers
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/more-than-1-3-million-winter-vaccines-delivered/>
- **Commentary:** More than 1.3 million COVID-19 and flu vaccines have been delivered since the winter vaccine programme launched in September, the Scottish Government announces.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>

<https://www.gov.scot/news/winter-vaccines-for-remaining-priority-groups/>

- **Commentary:** Scots aged 50-64 can book an appointment on the NHS Inform website for their winter COVID-19 and flu vaccines.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-pfizerbiontech-bivalent-COVID-19-booster-vaccine-approved-by-uk-medicines-regulator>
- **Commentary:** A second Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine is approved by the MHRA.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 30th November 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Fergus Ewing SNP-Inverness and Nairn
- **Relevant Documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-30-11-2022?meeting=14023&iob=127035#127035>

- **Commentary:** Suggestion of Scottish Govt supporting a GP led COVID-19 and flu vaccination programme in NHS Highland, in light of reports that it would cost several million pounds less £1.5 million than the model proposed £9 million a year by the national health service board.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pfizerbiontech-COVID-19-vaccine-authorized-for-use-in-infants-and-children-aged-6-months-to-4-years>
- **Commentary:** A second Pfizer/BioNTech bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine is approved by the MHRA for use in infants and children aged 6 months to 4 years.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Key milestone

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/two-years-of-COVID-19-vaccines/>

- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government announces that more than 14.9 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been administered in Scotland since the first jab was given exactly two years ago. Health Secretary Humza Yousaf thanks staff for their “incredible efforts”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key event (date):** 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

- **Topic:** Vaccination programme
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/12/16/timeline-of-coronavirus-COVID-19-in-scotland/>
- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government urges those eligible for the free COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to get their jabs as winter sets in and hospitalisations increase.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

- **Key event (date):** Key milestone
- **Topic:** Vaccine authorisation
- **Main body/persons involved:** MHRA
- **Relevant Documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sanofi-pasteur-COVID-19-vaccine-authorized-by-mhra>
- **Commentary:** VidPrevtyn Beta, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Sanofi, has been authorised by the MHRA.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**



## **Appendix 3: Personal Protective Equipment [PPE] (2e)**

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Summary of the Impact on Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

In early February 2020, as attention to COVID grew more widespread, but prior to its official classification as a pandemic, possible benefits of masking were first discussed by the SAGE group. In mid-April SAGE determined that evidence did not support general population masking but began to shift course shortly thereafter. By late April, the Scottish Government had issued a masking recommendation for the general population when in certain public places. In late June, masking on public transport became compulsory, followed by masking requirements when in shops, cinemas, museums, and places of worship. In late August 2020, masking in schools was made compulsory for secondary students. Masking requirements were largely kept in place until late 2021, when these mandates were gradually relaxed.

Generally, authorities' and experts' discussions of PPE mandates in response to COVID during the years 2020-2022 do not include specific consideration of refugees and asylum seekers. In some instances, discussions refer to potential impacts of PPE availability and its use specifically regarding the BAME population or vulnerable groups; however, this categorisation is too broad to be meaningful and does not necessarily include refugees and asylum seekers. Based on the documentation review, it appears that the impacts of PPE mandates on refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland were not taken into account in any meaningful way.

These PPE decisions, however, may have disproportionately impacted refugees and asylum seekers. Such potential impacts were generally connected to individual masking mandates, which could raise issues due to **the potentially prohibitive cost of masks**, as this population may have fewer financial resources; having **greater difficulty obtaining masks**, due to language barriers or not knowing where to seek PPE; and **understanding the mandates**, depending on whether such information was accessible to refugees and asylum seekers (e.g., translations of information, appropriate channels of communication and outreach). Mask wearing could also have had disproportionate impacts on refugees and asylum seeker children, whose **verbal communication and understanding would be hampered** by their own and others' masks, particularly in the school context. Masks may have also impeded communication of refugees and asylum seekers of all ages, compared with the general population in Scotland, impeding the transfer of information and community integration.

## **PPE: Timeline 2020 to 2021**

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**Key events (with dates): January 2020** The 4 nations public health high consequence infectious disease (HCID) group made an interim recommendation in January 2020 to classify COVID-19 as an HCID

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/person involved:** 4 nations public health high consequence infectious disease; Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid#status-of-COVID-19>
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents--**

**Key events (with dates):** 24/01/2020 PPE distributed to GPs from pandemic stockpile

- **Topic:** Distribution of PPE
- **Main body/person involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents: --**

**Key events (with dates):** Key milestone 04/02/2020  
Use of face masks for the general public is discussed for the first time in SAGE

- **Topic:** Community face mask/ covering use
- **Main body/person involved:** SAGE, New and Emerging Respiratory Virus Threats Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-february-2020/sage-4-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-february-2020>
- **Commentary:** SAGE heard that NERVTAG advises that there is limited to no evidence of the benefits of the general public wearing facemasks as a preventative measure.
  - 1) Facemasks and other personal protective equipment in the community is only advised for health and social care workers visiting individuals who may be infectious.

2) There is some evidence that wearing of face masks by symptomatic individuals may reduce transmission to other people, and therefore NERVTAG also recommends that symptomatic people should be encouraged to wear a surgical face mask, providing that it can be tolerated.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for COVID-symptomatic refugees and asylum seekers
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Costs of masks potentially prohibitive for this population (likelier to be in precarious financial situations)  
It may be more difficult for this population to obtain masks (language barriers, familiarity with where to find masks, ability to purchase masks online due to higher likelihood of digital exclusion)  
Communication of mask wearing recommendations/requirements must be tailored for the population (translation, appropriate channels, outreach)  
However, this survey indicates high understanding of and compliance with mask wearing by refugees:  
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-impact-survey.pdf>

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 19/03/2020**

COVID-19 no longer classified as a High Consequence Infectious Disease in the UK, affecting the type of PPE required (see note)

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)

Living review on the Epidemiology of and Risk Factors for Coronavirus Infection in Health Care Workers:

<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/high-consequence-infectious-diseases-hcid#status-of-COVID-19>

- **Commentary:** Note: High consequence infectious diseases such as Ebola and SARs have a high case fatality rate and require full body PPE. Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 19/03/2020**

Call convened, initially daily, between the SG, NHS in Scotland and government organisations to develop Scottish PPE manufacturing

- **Topic:** PPE manufacturing in Scotland
- **Main body/persons involved:** SG, NHS in Scotland and government organisations
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 19/03/2020**

NHS NSS sets up social care helpline to triage urgent requests for PPE

- **Topic:** Distribution of PPE
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS NSS
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 22/03/2020**

Letter from the Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance to Scottish companies appealing for support with provision of PPE

- **Topic:** PPE provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Minister for Trade, Innovation and Public Finance
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 23/03/2020** NHS supply chain external mailbox set up to receive offers from companies

- **Topic:** PPE provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS NSS
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 26/03/2020**

SAGE discussed an HSE report about the difference of N95 and FFP2 respirator masks.

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-26-march-2020/sage-19-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-26-march-2020>  
HSE report on difference between N95 and FFP2 (Couldn't find it)
- **Commentary:** HSE found no material difference between the N95 and FFP2 respirator masks. Both provide protection as long as the wearer is face-fit tested. Choice of masks needs to risk-assessment driven. Further advice for NHS and PHE on overall PPE will be completed within 24 hours.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

Key events (with dates): **30/03/2020** Single Point of Contact group established as a forum to address PPE issues at NHS board-level

- **Topic:** PPE issues
  - **Main body/persons involved:** NHS Health boards
  - **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
  - **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
  - **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
  - **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --
- Key events (with dates): Key milestone 30/03/2020

Eight weeks' supply of PPE was delivered to GPs in Scotland during the week of 30 March.

- **Topic:** Distribution of PPE
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 31/03/2020 SAGE committee discussed COVID-19 and nosocomial transmission

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, NHS England
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-31-march-2020/sage-21-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-31-march-2020>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892032/S0091\\_Nosocomial\\_Transmission\\_of\\_Coronavirus.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892032/S0091_Nosocomial_Transmission_of_Coronavirus.pdf)
- **Commentary:** NHS England provided some research options on nosocomial transmission and potential interventions, noting that ongoing work on PPE guidance is also linked to this.  
Nosocomial (hospital acquired) transmission can affect HCWs and/or patients. It can take place between HCWs, HCWs to and from patients, and between patients; the scale of these are unknown. It is either caused by exposure of HCWs before they are protected with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or due to incorrect wearing of it and lapses in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices.



Effective IPC has been challenging in recent weeks with high rates of staff absence amongst cleaning staff. There has been reported confusion over the use of PPE as well as shortages of some critical items.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): Key milestone April 2020**

Centrally held PPE stocks were very low at points during April 2020 as stock was rapidly distributed to NHS boards:

- **Topic:** Availability of PPE
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland  
0.3 days' worth of stock of long sleeve gowns  
1 day of FFP3 masks  
2 days of visors.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 01/04/2020**

Scottish Government sets up PPE helpline mailbox for health and social care staff to report PPE issues

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 02/04/2020**

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener to inform the Committee of revised PPE guidance has been published from Health Protection Scotland.

- **Topic:** PPE use in health and social care settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Jeane Freeman, Lewis Macdonald, Health Protection Scotland, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England and
- NHS England
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5\\_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200302\\_HS\\_Ltr\\_IN\\_CabSecHS.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200302_HS_Ltr_IN_CabSecHS.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The guidance outlined what PPE frontline health and social care workers should be wearing in different settings and scenarios. The guidance had input from Royal Colleges and was endorsed by expert scientific groups.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Possible
- impact on refugees and asylum seekers in social care if lack of PPE stock resulted in less contact with social workers.

**Key events (with dates): 07/04/2020** SAGE discussion on whether increased use of face masks will have an effect on infection

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, NERVTAG

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-april-2020/sage-23-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-april-2020>
- **Commentary:** NERVTAG concluded that increased use of masks would have minimal effect (in terms of preventing the uninfected general population from becoming infected), based on a review of the available evidence. Questions were raised about whether this would change if it were found that individuals have high levels of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic infectiousness (in which case could masks reduce early pre-symptomatic spread).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 09/4/2020 SAGE discussion on whether increased use of face masks will have an effect on infection

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, NERVTAG
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-april-2020/sage-24-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-april-2020>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/890039/s0117-rapid-review-face-masks-070420-sage24.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890039/s0117-rapid-review-face-masks-070420-sage24.pdf)  
[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331693/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC\\_Masks-2020.3-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331693/WHO-2019-nCov-IPC_Masks-2020.3-eng.pdf)
- **Commentary:** WHO has concluded there is currently no conclusive evidence that facemasks are beneficial for community use.

SAGE will review a NERVTAG paper on facemasks at its next meeting, covering their value in limiting spread from pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic cases and what potential research studies might be commissioned.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 09/04/2020** Joint statement and guidance issued by the Scottish Government, COSLA and SJC Unions on PPE use in social care

- **Topic:** Use of PPE
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Health Protection Scotland, COSLA and SJC Unions;  
The guidance had input from Royal Colleges and is endorsed by expert scientific groups, as well as the Chief Medical Officers and Chief Nursing Officers in the UK.
- **Relevant documents:** [Protecting the social care workforce - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-our-frontline-staff/workforce)  
**Guidance published on 2 April 2020:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-our-frontline-staff/>
- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government with COSLA and the SJC Unions have agreed today that the guidance jointly published by the Department of Health and Social Care, Health Protection Scotland (HPS), Public Health Wales, Public Health Agency Northern Ireland, Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England on 2 April 2020 is the official and fully comprehensive guidance on the matter of the use of PPE in the context of COVID19.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments 2 April 2020.

## **Key events (with dates): Key decision 14/04/2020**

SAGE concludes that evidence does not currently support use of face masks to protect the wearer in the general population.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, NERVTAG
- **Relevant documents:**
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-april-2020/sage-25-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-april-2020>
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/890043/S0127-nervtag-face-mask-use-in-the-community-130420-sage25.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890043/S0127-nervtag-face-mask-use-in-the-community-130420-sage25.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Evidence does not currently support use of face masks to protect the wearer in the general population. Overall, the evidence that masks could prevent spread is weak, but probably marginally in favour of a small effect. Circumstances where there may be benefits included enclosed environments with poor ventilation, and around vulnerable people. Conversely, there are unlikely to be any significant benefits in use of masks outdoors. There are communication considerations around any change in advice on masks.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** The minutes call for data to examine impact of measures on vulnerable groups, but do not define “vulnerable.” The minutes also call for review of household studies, including “specific communities or groups (for example barracks, boarding schools)” -- do not mention refugees or asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): 16/4/2020** SAGE agreed that any additional advice on community face mask use is for the purposes of consideration as part of releasing social distancing measures and not relevant to the current situation.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus- COVID-19-response-16-april-2020/sage-26-minutes-coronavirus- COVID-19-response-16-april- 2020#nosocomial-infection](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-april-2020/sage-26-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-april-2020#nosocomial-infection)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/890233/s0150-wearing-facemasks-community-setting-options-evidence-160420-sage26.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/890233/s0150-wearing-facemasks-community-setting-options-evidence-160420-sage26.pdf)
- **Commentary:** SAGE will produce revised advice on masks in the week starting 20 April. Advice will then need to be integrated with other considerations, such as availability.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 16/4/2020** The SAGE Nosocomial Working Group has identified marked variation among hospital trusts on implementation of infection prevention control (IPC) guidelines.

- **Topic:** PPE use in hospitals
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE Nosocomial Working Group, Hospital trusts
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-april-2020/sage-26-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-april-2020#nosocomial-infection>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/892034/S0140\\_Hospital\\_Onset\\_COVID-19\\_-\\_IPC\\_evidence\\_from\\_recent\\_survey\\_and\\_next\\_steps.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892034/S0140_Hospital_Onset_COVID-19_-_IPC_evidence_from_recent_survey_and_next_steps.pdf)

- **Commentary:** The Nosocomial Working Group has identified marked variation among hospital trusts on implementation of infection prevention control (IPC) guidelines. IPC policy will be updated and circulated, as will guidelines on cleaning and on use of face masks.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 17/04/2020** Online portal established for NHS boards to report PPE supply issues

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government, NHS Health boards
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 18/04/2020** NHS NSS distributes one week's supply of PPE to all care homes in Scotland

- **Topic:** PPE distribution
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS NSS
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Source: Audit Scotland

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 18/04/2020** A charter flight from China carrying essential personal protective equipment (PPE) and NHS supplies has landed in Scotland

- **Topic:** PPE provision
- **Main body/persons involved:**
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/delivery-of-critical-nhs-supplies/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 21/4/2020**

SAGE advises that, on balance, there is enough evidence to support recommendation of community use of cloth face masks, for short periods in enclosed spaces where social distancing is not possible.

- **Topic:** Community face masks or coverings use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, CMO
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-e-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-21-april-2020/sage-27-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-21-april-2020>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-b-the-use-of-facemasks-in-a-community-setting-20-april-2020>



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delve-report-on-face-masks-for-the-general-public-21-april-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/potential-impact-of-face-covering-on-the-transmissibility-of-sars-cov-2-in-the-uk-20-april-2020>

- **Commentary:** Main conclusions:
- On balance, there is evidence to recommend the use of cloth masks in certain higher-risk settings as a precautionary measure where masks could be at least partially effective.  
SAGE secretariat to summarise SAGE advice today on public use of cloth face masks for CMO to submit to ministers alongside policy and operations advice.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** SPI-B notes re: mandate on face masks involves potential “inequity of access for those unable to buy/make facemasks who might therefore be unable to go outside or buy essentials.”  
DELVE: “If the use of face masks in public is made mandatory or highly recommended, interventions may be necessary to ensure that all members of the public have access to these masks and information about proper use.”

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 27/04/2020** Local PPE hubs established to supply social care providers with PPE where normal supply routes have failed.

- **Topic:** PPE distribution
- **Main body/persons involved:** The hubs are run by local Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs).
- **Relevant documents:** [Extending PPE access to all social care providers - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot)

- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announces that Local Hubs will distribute PPE supplies to the whole of the social care sector where normal supply routes have not been successful. These hubs will extend their provision to include all social care providers, and unpaid or family carers and personal assistants.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 28/04/2020**

Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on COVID-19 where issues related to lack of PPE were discussed

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Health and Sport Committee
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12617&mode=pdf>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): Key decision 28/04/2020**

The Scottish Government recommends people cover their faces while in some public places such as shops and on public transport.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-52457324>
- **Commentary:** First time Scottish government recommends the use of face coverings. "First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said there could be "some benefit" in wearing a cloth face covering in places where social distancing was difficult."
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and**

**asylum seekers disproportionately? Yes**

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone Late April 2020**

In a survey of Scottish members carried out by the British Medical Association (BMA)

- **Topic:** PPE
- availability
- **Main body/persons involved:** BMA, NHS NSS, Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** BMA Scotland COVID-19 Tracker Survey Results, BMA Scotland, May 2020.  
[https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr\\_210117\\_nhs\\_overview.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr_210117_nhs_overview.pdf)  
<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294>
- **Commentary:** The survey reported that some doctors did not have access to correct and sufficient PPE. This was highlighted as the most concerning issue for 16 per cent of respondents. 16 Those working in higher risk areas reported shortages of a number of items of PPE, including fullface visors (29 per cent) and long-sleeved disposable gowns (16 per cent).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone April 2020**

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) surveyed its members in Scotland.

- **Topic:** PPE availability
- **Main body/persons involved:** RCN, NHS NSS, Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** RCN publishes results of member

survey about PPE, RCN website,

<https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/news/ppe-survey-results-18-april-2020>

[https://www.audit-](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr_210117_nhs_overview.pdf)

[scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr\\_210117\\_nhs\\_overview.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/nr_210117_nhs_overview.pdf)

<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/full/10.7326/M21-4294>

- **Commentary:** In April 2020 the RCN survey found that, of those respondents working in high-risk environments, 25 per cent had not had their mask fit tested and 47 per cent were asked to reuse single-use equipment.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

#### **Key events (with dates): 07/05/2020**

Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on COVID-19 scrutiny where issues related to lack of PPE were discussed

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Health and Sport Committee
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12632&mode=pdf>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

#### **Key events (with dates): 09/05/2020**

Scottish Government announces more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be manufactured in Scotland following the establishment of a new NHS Scotland supply chain.

- **Topic:** PPE production

- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS Scotland, Trade Ministry, Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service, Scottish-based companies (Forfar-based Don & Low for the base material required, Redwood TTM Ltd and Keela, who are based in Wigan and Glenrothes to make the sterile gowns, Keela will also work with manufacturers Transcal and Endura, both based in Livingston, to deliver these Scottish supplies.
- **Relevant documents:** [Keela](#)  
[Redwood TTM Ltd](#)  
[Transcal](#)  
[Endura](#)  
[Increase in PPE production - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 13/05/2020**

Following the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport's evidence session regarding PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) on 7 May 2020, the Convener issued a letter seeking further information and clarification on a number of points

- **Topic:** PPE availability
- **Main body/persons involved:** Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5\\_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20200513\\_Ltr\\_OUT\\_to\\_CabSecHS\\_re\\_PPE.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20200513_Ltr_OUT_to_CabSecHS_re_PPE.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 19/05/2020** SAGE endorsed the Environmental and Modelling Group papers on disinfection technologies and on risk mitigation on public transport (including face coverings).

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, Environmental and Modelling Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-37-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-19-may-2020/sage-37-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-19-may-2020>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904663/S04\\_41\\_EMG\\_-\\_Evidence\\_for\\_transmission\\_of\\_SARS-COV-2\\_on\\_ground\\_public\\_transport.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904663/S04_41_EMG_-_Evidence_for_transmission_of_SARS-COV-2_on_ground_public_transport.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 26/05/2020** The Chief Nursing Officer issued a letter to all NHS boards clarifying that single-use PPE should not be re-used.

- **Topic:** PPE use in health care settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Chief Nursing Officer
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 04/06/2020** SAGE endorsed the paper on mask wearing to reduce transmission in hospitals, and agreed that similar consideration should be given to care homes so that coordinated and consistent advice can be given.

- **Topic:** PPE use in hospitals and care homes
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE Nosocomial group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-40-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-june-2020/sage-40-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-4-june-2020>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/895818/S0485\\_EMG\\_SARS-CoV-2\\_in\\_the\\_hospital\\_environment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895818/S0485_EMG_SARS-CoV-2_in_the_hospital_environment.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 04/06/2020** Scottish Government publish a report on Personal Protective Equipment supplies.

- **Topic:** PPE availability
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government, Economic Development Directorate
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-report-on-personal-protective-equipment-supplies-2/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 04/06/2020** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group discussed face coverings in enclosed public settings noting that this has been made mandatory in some other countries.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-4-june-2020/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 11/06/2020**

Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group: Discussions on the use of face coverings in health and social care, and community settings continued.

- **Topic:** Community face mask use and use of face masks in health and social care settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-11-june-2020/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?**
- [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --



**Key events (with dates): 17/06/2020** Health and Sport Committee Session 5 on COVID-19 scrutiny, resilience and emergency planning, where issues related to lack of PPE were discussed

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Health and Sport Committee
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12704&mode=pdf>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 22/06/2020**

Face coverings become **compulsory** on public transport, with exemptions made for children under five and people with certain medical conditions

- **Topic:** Community face mask use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government, Transport Secretary Michael Matheson
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/face-coverings-mandatory-on-public-transport-from-22-june/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

### **Key events (with dates): 25/06/2020**

The Convener issued a letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport seeking further information following the evidence session on 17 June on resilience, including on issues in relation to PPE And the Convener received a response to the above letter on 28/07/2020

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Jeane Freeman, Lewis Macdonald
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5\\_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200625\\_Ltr\\_OUT\\_CabSecHS.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200625_Ltr_OUT_CabSecHS.pdf)  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5\\_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200728\\_Ltr\\_IN\\_CabSecHS\\_Resilience.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/General%20Documents/20200728_Ltr_IN_CabSecHS_Resilience.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): July 2020**

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in hospitals, primary care and wider community care is published

- **Topic:** PPE use in health and social care settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Chief Nursing Officer Directorate, Health Protection Scotland, Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-interim-guidance-on-the-extended-use-of-face-masks-in-hospitals-and-care-homes/pages/new-additional-guidance---hospital-staff/>

- **Commentary:** Updated on 18/09/2020, 23/09/2020, 2/10/2020, 20/10/2020, 9/11/2020, 7/06/2021, 23/06/2021, 5/07/2021, 8/10/2021, 3/12/2021
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 10/07/2020**

Face coverings become compulsory in shops

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
  - **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
  - **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-speech-10-july-2020/>
  - **Commentary:**
  - **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes [link broken]
- Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 16/07/2020**

Coronavirus and Scotland: Interim report on intergovernmental working 2020 published where PPE issues are discussed

- **Topic:** PPE issues
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Affairs Committee
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/2039/documents/19573/default/>
- **Commentary:** What more could the UK and Scottish Government do to ensure that Scottish key workers have been able to gain access to personal protective equipment
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 23/07/2020**

SAGE endorsed the EMG paper on airborne transmission, noting its findings around the limitations of face shields/visors and on the importance of good ventilation.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use

- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE

- **Relevant documents:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-48-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-july-2020/sage-48-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-23-july-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtagemg-role-of-aerosol-transmission-in-COVID-19-22-july-2020/nervtag-and-emg-role-of-aerosol-transmission-in-COVID-19-22-july-2020>

- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** NERVTAG: Yes – recommendations include masking, indoor ventilation, both of which can disproportionately impact refugees (cost and availability of masks, as well as information about masking; and higher likelihood of multiple occupants in single residence).

SAGE notes:

“It is important to note that household structures differ between different ethnic and social groups and this has implications for the effects of any proposed segmentation approach.”

Discusses messaging needs for different ethnic and minority groups.

**Key events (with dates): 28/07/2020** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group members briefly discussed wearing face coverings in schools

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues
  - **Relevant documents:**
    - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-28-july-2020/>
    - <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2020/11/COVID-19-advisory-group-evidence-papers-july-2020/documents/managing-COVID-19-in-australian-and-israel-schools-lessons-for-scotland-23-july-2020/managing-COVID-19-in-australian-and-israel-schools-lessons-for-scotland-23-july-2020/govscot%3Adocument/Managing%2BCOVID-19%2Bin%2BAustralian%2Band%2BIsrael%2BSchools%2BLessons%2Bfor%2BScotland%2B%252823%2BJuly%2B2020%2529.pdf>
    - <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2020/11/COVID-19-advisory-group-evidence-papers-july-2020/documents/insights-from-u-s--on-re-opening-universities-and-higher-education-23-july-2020/insights-from-u-s--on-re-opening-universities-and-higher-education-23-july-2020/govscot%3Adocument/Insights%2Bfrom%2BU.S.%2Bon%2Bre-opening%2Buniversities%2Band%2BHigher%2BEducation%2B%252823%2BJuly%2B2020%2529.pdf>
- Commentary:** Group members briefly discussed wearing face coverings in schools, noting their support for the advice from the subgroup on Education and Children’s issues which states that “Face coverings are not required for most children (those clinically advised to wear a covering would be an exception).”

Adults in schools do not need to wear face coverings as long as they can retain two metre distancing. Where adults cannot keep two metre distance, are interacting face-to-face and for about 15 minutes or more, face coverings should be worn.”

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 08/08/2020**

The list of places where the wearing of face coverings is required extends to also include libraries, museums and places of worship (in addition to shops and public transport)

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53697673>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 24/08/2020** The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group received an update from the Chair of the Education & Children subgroup on face coverings in schools and on Higher and Further Education

**Topic:** Community face mask or covering use

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-24-august-2020/>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening>  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/333919>
- **Commentary:** The group received an update from the Chair of the Education & Children subgroup on face coverings in schools and on Higher and Further Education (HE/FE).
- The group had a discussion around the wearing of face coverings by secondary school pupils and agreed that face coverings were just one instrument of a risk minimisation strategy. The chair noted the range of views in relation to the wearing of face coverings in schools and the group agreed that the advice should be kept under review as the effects of reopening schools
- become clearer.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 31/08/2020**

The Scottish Government announces that secondary school pupils will be required to wear face coverings in school corridors, communal areas and on school buses

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/face-coverings-information-for-secondary-practitioners/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-53900825>

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugee and asylum seeker children attending secondary school
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.  
Impact of mask wearing on refugee and asylum seeker students' ability to verbally communicate, as their own and others' faces not visible and this can hinder understanding and learning.

### **Key events (with dates): 01/09/2020**

Use of face coverings in certain settings for Opening Higher Education and Further Education settings in Autumn is recommended

**Topic:** Community face mask or covering use

- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-54-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-1-september-2020/sage-54-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-1-september-2020>
- **Commentary:** Face coverings will have greatest benefits where people are in close proximity or are in the same shared space for a period of time, especially where ventilation is poor or there is activity that could produce enhanced aerosols.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugees and asylum seekers in higher education
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.



**Key events (with dates): 10/09/2020** Customers in pubs, restaurants and cafes will be required to wear face coverings when not eating.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54093110>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 17/09/2020** SAGE discusses use of face coverings for extended periods

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-57-record-of-meeting-on-COVID-19-17-september-2020/sage-57-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-17-september-2020>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/923607/s0760-4a-duration-wearing-face-coverings-170920.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923607/s0760-4a-duration-wearing-face-coverings-170920.pdf)
- **Commentary:** Use of face coverings should be considered in situations where they may be required for longer periods, though tolerability and equity need to be considered. Levels of adherence to guidance around when and how to use face coverings are likely to be a more significant factor in effectiveness than the duration of wearing.  
SAGE secretariat to circulate paper 'Duration of wearing face coverings' to relevant departments, including DHSC, CO, BEIS, DfT, DfE, MHCLG, DCMS, HSE, PHE, and Devolved Administrations by 17 September 2020

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 13/10/2020**

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener on 13 October 2020 regarding Scottish Government's plans for a physical and digital exemption card for people who are exempt under the regulations from wearing face coverings.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/angiestest/20201013\\_Ltr\\_IN\\_CABSEC\\_to\\_Convener\\_r.e\\_Exemption\\_Cards.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/angiestest/20201013_Ltr_IN_CABSEC_to_Convener_r.e_Exemption_Cards.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 19/10/2020** New rules are announced for face coverings, requiring them to be worn in workplace canteens from Monday 19 October, but they will no longer be required at wedding ceremonies

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54562795>
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugees and asylum seekers who are working
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): Key milestone 28/10/2020**

Scottish Government publishes its PPE Action Plan

- **Topic:** PPE planning
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/personal-protective-equipment-ppe- COVID-19-scotlands-action-plan/>
- **Commentary:** Scotland's COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Plan will help ensure that the right PPE of the right quality gets to the people who need it at the right time. The Plan's scope includes health, social care and other workplaces and settings where COVID-19 could put people at risk.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 30/10/2020** Senior pupils and their teachers are being advised by the Scottish Government to wear face coverings in classrooms, if they are in the new level three and four restriction areas

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54748253>
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 16/11/2020**

The Education sub-group considered the use of face coverings

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-16-november-2020/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 02/12/2020**

The group noted that PPE, IPC measures, testing and guidance had much improved in care homes

- **Topic:** PPE use in care homes
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-3-december-2020/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 14/01/2021** SAGE endorsed the paper 'Application of physical distancing and fabric face coverings in mitigating the B117 variant SARS-CoV-2 virus in public, workplace and community'.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-76-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-january-2021/sage-76-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-january-2021>  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1008199/S1029-EMG-face-coverings-distancing-13-jan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008199/S1029-EMG-face-coverings-distancing-13-jan.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 19/01/2021** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to the Convener on 19 January 2021 regarding the extension of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) support arrangements for primary care and social care providers.

- **Topic:** PPE supply
- **Main body/persons involved:** Lewis Macdonald, Jeane Freeman
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5\\_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20210119\\_Ltr\\_IN\\_from\\_CabSecHS\\_re\\_Extension\\_of\\_PPE\\_Hubs.pdf](https://archive2021.parliament.scot/S5_HealthandSportCommittee/Inquiries/20210119_Ltr_IN_from_CabSecHS_re_Extension_of_PPE_Hubs.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 18/02/2021**

Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group looked at mitigations and the need to be stricter in secondary schools on distancing and masks

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Education and Children sub-group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-february-2021/>
- **Commentary:** The Education and Children sub-group had looked at mitigations and the need to be stricter in secondary schools on distancing and masks, including issues of practicality in relation to access to masks.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:**

**Key events (with dates): 18/02/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group discussed the type of PPE that is needed in health care settings

- **Topic:** PPE use in health care settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-february-2021/>
- **Commentary:** On-going debate about PPE related to mask type being used for HCWs internationally  
CNRG had considered recent aerosol science publications and noted the need for clinical research in this area to further inform risk management.

It was noted that there was a need for a study that repeats the non-inferiority trial work done for SARS re FRSM vs FFP3 masks and this was being developed by colleagues in Canada.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 03/03/21** The Scottish Government advisory group recommends that all secondary pupils should wear face coverings when they return to the classroom later in the month.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-on-education-and-childrens-issues---phased-return-to-in-person-learning-in-schools-and-elc-settings---next-steps/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-4-march-2021/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugee and asylum seeker children attending secondary school
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 11/03/2021 and 25/03/2021** SAGE discusses the use of masks in healthcare settings  
And **18/03/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE, Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group Nosocomial sub-group
- **Relevant documents:**
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-83-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-11-march-2021/sage-83-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-11-march-2021#masks-in-healthcare-settings>
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-84-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-25-march-2021/sage-84-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-25-march-2021#face-masks-in-healthcare-settings>
  - [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/979441/S1169\\_Facemasks\\_for\\_health\\_care\\_workers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/979441/S1169_Facemasks_for_health_care_workers.pdf)
  - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-18-march-2021/>
- **Commentary:** Decisions on policies on mask usage for HCWs lie within the NHS. Given the limited available evidence, it is not known what impact greater use of FFP3 masks would have on overall levels of transmission in HCWs (though the limitations of the evidence should not be taken to show an absence of effect).
- UK IPC guidance and that issued by WHO both recommend that HCWs routinely wear face masks while COVID-19 is endemic, and that FFP3 and similar types of respirator masks are recommended for use where aerosol generating procedures (AGPs) are in place for a suspected or confirmed COVID- 19 patient.



- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 06/04/2021**

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirms that all secondary school pupils will return full time to the classroom after the Easter holidays (19/04/2021). They will no longer need to follow social distancing rules, but must wear face coverings throughout the school

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-56649985>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugee and asylum seeker children attending school
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 22/04/2021** SAGE discusses the effectiveness of NPIs including face masks

- **Topic:** PPE use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-87-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-april-2021/sage-87-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-april-2021>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spi-b-sustaining-behaviours-to-reduce-sars-cov-2-transmission-30-april-2021>

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): Key decision 23/06/2021**

Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance on the extended use of face masks and face coverings in care homes has been made into separate guidance.

- **Topic:** PPE use in care homes
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland, ARHAI Scotland
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/COVID-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-home-settings-adults-and-older-people/COVID-19-information-and-guidance-for-care-home-settings-adults-and-older-people-version-27/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 30/06/2021** Provision of PPE to primary and social care due to come to an end

- **Topic:** PPE provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing\\_210617\\_ppe.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2021/briefing_210617_ppe.pdf)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 22/07/2021** SAGE discusses the findings of human challenge studies

- **Topic:** PPE use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-94-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-july-2020/sage-94-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-22-july-2021>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nervtag-extraordinary-nervtag-COVID-19-meeting-on-human-challenge-studies-9-july-2021>
- **Commentary:** Nose shedding correlated better than throat shedding with detection of infectious virus on face masks, on surfaces and in the air.  
This suggests that nose shedding may be more important for transmission than throat shedding. This reinforces the importance of face coverings covering both the mouth and the nose.  
HOCl group consider whether it needs to review advice on the use of PPE in healthcare settings.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 05/08/2021** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care participated in the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-5-august-2021-2/>

- **Commentary:** The group considered the role that NPIs are continuing to play domestically, alongside the pressures Scotland and other countries face. Leading issues include the use of masks, how long to require these for, who should use them, and what settings they
- should continue to be used in.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 05/08/2021**

Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group and Nosocomial sub-group discussed a paper about the use of FFP3 equipment in healthcare settings

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group and Nosocomial sub-group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-5-august-2021-2/>  
 Paper under discussion couldn't be found
- **Commentary:** Paper 1 – this considered whether wider use of FFP3 masks is warranted. The nosocomial infection risk is currently very low and the CNRG endorsed the current guidance. The subgroup also noted a systematic review on this topic by an Australian group of researchers and there has also been work on this area by the Norwegian Defence establishment. The group noted the concerns that some healthcare staff may have with regards to the level of PPE used, even when patients are deemed to be very low risk.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 09/08/2021**

Face masks can be removed for drinking, dancing and dining in a hospitality setting; Children under the age of 12 are no longer legally required to wear face coverings in public places.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58114122>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58118237>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 17/8/2021**

As schools in Scotland begin to return for the new academic year, Education Secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville says that face coverings in classrooms will be scrapped "as soon as possible"

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58228512>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 09/09/2021**

SAGE noted that European comparators with similar levels of vaccination have maintained more interventions (masks, vaccine certification, work from home) than the UK and are seeing their epidemics decline.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-95-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-september-2021/sage-95-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-9-september-2021>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** [link broken]
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

### **Key events (with dates): 14/10/2021**

SAGE received an update on monitoring of and measures to prevent nosocomial infection

- **Topic:** PPE use in healthcare settings
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021>
- **Commentary:** SAGE received an update on monitoring of and measures to prevent nosocomial infection, including vaccination and testing of healthcare workers, and risk assessments for both COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. SAGE noted the importance of consistent testing of healthcare workers across the NHS and care sector, and a continued focus on use of ventilation and facemasks. A renewed emphasis on measures to reduce infection spread

in hospital is advised.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 14/10/2021 SAGE discussed the impact of potential Plan B mitigations considering the impact of the Delta variant and the behavioural response to reimposition of measures.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021/sage-96-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-14-october-2021>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1027586/S1393\\_SPI-B\\_SPI-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027586/S1393_SPI-B_SPI-)

[M\\_EMG\\_Considerations\\_for\\_potential\\_impact\\_of\\_Plan\\_B\\_measures\\_13\\_October\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027586/S1393_SPI-B_SPI-M_EMG_Considerations_for_potential_impact_of_Plan_B_measures_13_October_2021.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1027840/S1394\\_SPI-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027840/S1394_SPI-)

[B\\_Behavioural\\_considerations\\_for\\_maintaining\\_or\\_reintroducing\\_behavioural\\_interventions\\_and\\_introducing\\_new\\_measures\\_in\\_Autumn\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1027840/S1394_SPI-B_Behavioural_considerations_for_maintaining_or_reintroducing_behavioural_interventions_and_introducing_new_measures_in_Autumn_2021.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1036475/S1395\\_EMG-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036475/S1395_EMG-)

[Nervtag\\_Update\\_on\\_Transmission\\_and\\_Environmental\\_and\\_Behavioural\\_Mitigation\\_Strategies\\_including\\_in\\_the\\_context\\_of\\_Delta.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1036475/S1395_EMG-Nervtag_Update_on_Transmission_and_Environmental_and_Behavioural_Mitigation_Strategies_including_in_the_context_of_Delta.pdf)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1033268/Respiratory\\_Evidence\\_Panel\\_Evidence\\_Overview.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033268/Respiratory_Evidence_Panel_Evidence_Overview.pdf)

- **Commentary:** There has been a decrease in self-reported precautionary behaviours such as wearing a face covering. Face coverings are expected to have some effect to reduce transmission through all routes by partially reducing emission of and exposure to aerosols and droplets carrying the virus, reducing transmission risk at both close proximity (even for short periods of time) and over longer range. Effectiveness is dependent on the quality of the covering, the fit and ensuring both the nose and mouth are covered. Mandating face coverings in some settings is likely to also have benefits for reducing transmission of other respiratory viruses.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 14/10/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Update on use of face masks in schools.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-covid-19-advisory-group-minutes-14-october-2021/>
- **Commentary:** The group heard that there had been challenging discussions in last few meetings on appropriate reductions in mitigations such as face coverings at desks, restrictions on assemblies and parental engagement.



- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 19/10/2021** The Scottish Government decides against lifting the requirement for face coverings to be worn in secondary schools, saying it will allow more time for 12–15-year-olds to be vaccinated.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Education secretary, Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-58966726>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugee and asylum seeker children attending secondary school
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 19/11/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Update on use of face masks in schools.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group; Scottish government, Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children’s Issues
- **Relevant documents:**
- **Commentary:** On face coverings in schools – direct comparisons with England are difficult to make. There is good public health rationale for the use of mask wearing as a mitigation in these settings. The subgroup also takes into consideration the wider harms from this mitigation. The

possible use of clear masks was raised, particularly for use in early learning settings. The Chair subgroup noted this and commented that this may be considered by the subgroup in future discussions.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes, for refugee and asylum seeker children attending school
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 07/12/2021** SAGE suggests that well-fitting masks and distancing or reduced density of people in indoor environments may be even more important with the emergence of Omicron

And **09/12/2021** Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021/sage-98-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-7-december-2021>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-9-december-2021/>
- **Commentary:** Some international reports of ‘superspreading’ events (some of which include Omicron) also suggest a greater role for airborne transmission than has previously been the case, as it is less likely that Omicron could have spread to as many people as it has at those events by other routes (low confidence). This means that measures to reduce airborne spread such as ventilation, well-fitting masks and distancing or reduced density of people in indoor environments may be even more important.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key events (with dates):** 16/12/2021 SAGE discusses response measures in the context of Omicron, including the use of face masks

And 17/12/2021 Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE; Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021/sage-99-minutes-coronavirus-COVID-19-response-16-december-2021>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emg-and-spi-b-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-npis-in-the-context-of-omicron-15-december-2021/emg-and-spi-b-non-pharmaceutical-interventions-npis-in-the-context-of-omicron-15-december-2021>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-17-december-2021/>

**Commentary:** Mitigations for Omicron are similar to Delta, including use of well-fitting and well-made face coverings. If testing is not possible, physical distancing, wearing of face-coverings, and environmental interventions may need to increase further to compensate.

Consistency of messaging will be important to ensure that people understand the importance of mitigations and are able to apply guidance (such as on use of face coverings or physical distancing) consistently in a range of environments.

Cabinet Office C-19 Taskforce to outline the need for any further advice including on any specific packages of interventions.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020

**Key events (with dates): 28/01/2022** Adults are no longer required to wear face coverings if taking part in organised activities with children under the age of five

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60159431>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 01/02/2022** First Minister Nicola Sturgeon told MSPs that a decision on whether older pupils would continue to have to wear face masks in schools would be considered again next week.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-60217960>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 10/02/2022** Secondary school pupils in Scotland will not need to wear face coverings in classrooms from 28 February.

- **Topic:** Community face mask or covering use
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government; Coronavirus (COVID 19): Advisory Sub-Group on Education and Children's Issues
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60334763>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

## Timeline 2022

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**Key event (date):** 11<sup>th</sup> January

- **Topic:** Healthcare worker absences need to ensure fit-tested protective equipment, no change in guidance.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Nosocomial Review Group of the advisory group
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-group-minutes-11-january-2022/>  
Modelling of COVID-19 up to 3<sup>rd</sup> January, details of R number, projections for hospitalizations and deaths.
- **Commentary:** This subgroup noted healthcare absences due to high community prevalence and advised on the importance of ensuring all staff are fit-tested for respiratory protective equipment. The subgroup reviewed the latest infection prevention and control guidance from WHO. The UK IPC cell and UKHSA agreed that no change was needed in UK guidance.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 28<sup>th</sup> Jan

- **Topic:** Relaxation in rules on face coverings for adults around children aged less than 5 years of age
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60159431>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-39](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-39)
- **Commentary:** Adults no longer needed to wear face coverings whilst taking part in organised activities with children under five years of age.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 10<sup>th</sup> February **Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** High school pupils and staff not required to wear face coverings
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/COVID-19-school-rules-to-be-eased/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-advisory-sub-group-minutes-8-february-2022/>  
<https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20220307182305/http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/>

- **Commentary:** High school pupils and staff were not required to wear face coverings from 28<sup>th</sup> February. Those wishing to continue should be fully supported to do so. Face masks were still required in communal areas.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

- **Topic:** Potential for transmission to increase if behavioural changes and mitigation measures are removed
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1054509/S15\\_09\\_SAGE\\_105\\_minutes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054509/S15_09_SAGE_105_minutes.pdf)
- **Commentary:** As per estimates, behavioural change (e.g. increased home working, mask wearing) and mitigations (e.g. testing, self-isolation) have contributed to reducing transmission risk by 20–45%. Rapid removal of mitigation measures to pre-pandemic levels may lead to a rapid increase in transmission (medium confidence).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 22<sup>nd</sup> February **Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Strategic framework will rely on vaccines, treatment, good public health behaviors to control virus
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government strategic framework – update (previous update November 2021)

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-update-first-ministers-speech-tuesday-22-february-2022/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/pages/2/>
- **Commentary:** The first minister introduces the new strategic framework. Covid certification to end 28<sup>th</sup> February, regulations on face covering in indoor public places and public transport to revert to guidance. The strategic framework includes a section on the future for PPE (usage is maintained, wastage is minimized, Scotland's capacity and capability to produce PPE continues).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 28<sup>th</sup> February

- **Topic:** Removing masks in schools
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/removing-face-coverings-in-classrooms/>
- **Commentary:** Teachers and pupils choosing to wear face coverings will be supported to do so, assemblies and transition visits for learners eased from today.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --



**Key event (date):** 28<sup>th</sup> Feb

- **Topic:** School children no longer required to wear masks in classrooms
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60546409>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-33](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-33)
- **Commentary:** Government regulation for compulsory mask wearing by school children in classrooms lifted, however, masks need to be worn in corridors.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 15<sup>th</sup> March **Key Milestone**

- **Topic:** Legal requirement to wear face coverings on public transport and most indoor public settings to continue to early April.
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/update-on-covid-regulations/>
- **Commentary:** The First Minister announced that legal requirements for facemasks to continue until at least early April due to spike of COVID-19 cases. Legal requirement for businesses and service providers to collect customer details for contact tracing and to take reasonable measures set out in COVID guidance to end as planned 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key event (date):** 15<sup>th</sup> Mar

- **Topic:** Rule for wearing of masks on public transport and in shops extended
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60750364>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-71](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-71)
- **Commentary:** The rule of wearing masks in shops and on public transport extended until 4<sup>th</sup> of Apr.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020.

**Key event (date):** 17<sup>th</sup> March

- **Topic:** No change in decision making
- **Main body/persons involved:** Coronavirus (COVID-19) PPE
- Strategy and Governance Board minutes
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20220319114156/>  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-ppe-strategy-and-governance-board-minutes-march-2022/>
- **Commentary:** Manufacturing and future planning
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 30<sup>th</sup> March KEY MILESTONE

- **Topic:** Face covering rules to change
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/update-on-COVID-19-regulations/>
- **Commentary:** Legal requirements to wear face coverings on public transport and most indoor public settings to be replaced by guidance. From 4<sup>th</sup> April restrictions to wearing masks in places of worship or while attending marriage ceremony, civil partnership, funeral or commemorative event to end. From 18<sup>th</sup> April masks in other indoor areas and public transport will end.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 30<sup>th</sup> Mar

- **Topic:** Rule for wearing of masks on public transport and in shops extended
- **Main body/persons involved:** Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60928806>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-77](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-77)
- **Commentary:** The rule of wearing masks in shops and on public transport extended until 18<sup>th</sup> of Apr.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments of 4 February 2020 and 31 August 2020.

**Key event (date):** 31<sup>st</sup> Mar

- **Topic:** The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Requirements) (Scotland) Amendment (No. 6) Regulations 2022
- **Main body/persons involved:** Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-health-social-care-and-sport-committee/correspondence/2022/the-health-protection>
- **Commentary:** These regulations remove the requirement of wearing face coverings at places of worship as well as for those at a marriage ceremony, civil partnership registration, funeral or commemorative event related to the end of a person's life to wear a face covering for the duration of the event. The requirement is removed in respect of such ceremonies and events in all indoor places. To come into force from 4<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 4<sup>th</sup> Apr

- **Topic:** Rules for face coverings in places of worship, and at weddings and funerals lifted
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60974672>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-80](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-80)
- **Commentary:** People are no longer required to wear face coverings in places of worship, and at weddings and funerals.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 18<sup>th</sup> Apr

- **Topic:** Rules regarding the wearing of face coverings in shops and restaurants, and on public transport lifted
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-61139581>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline\\_of\\_the\\_COVID-19\\_pandemic\\_in\\_Scotland\\_\(2022\)#cite\\_note-90](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_COVID-19_pandemic_in_Scotland_(2022)#cite_note-90)
- **Commentary:** Wearing face coverings in shops and restaurants, and on public transport is no longer mandatory.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 16<sup>th</sup> June

- **Topic:** Overview of Scotland's financial response to pandemic with amount of spending for PPE in 2020/2021
- **Main body/persons involved:** Audit Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr\\_220616\\_financial\\_response\\_to\\_covid.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr_220616_financial_response_to_covid.pdf)
- **Commentary:** £448 million spent on PPE in 2020/2021.
- NHS National Services Scotland had responsibility for purchasing PPE for NHS and Social Care. Previous report written in 2021 regarding PPE.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 7<sup>th</sup> September

- **Topic:** Facemasks not required in social care
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/facemasks-no-longer-recommended-in-social-care/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-use-of-face-coverings-in-social-care-settings-including-adult-care-homes/>

**Commentary:** Social care staff and visitors were no longer advised to wear facemasks at all times. However, they may be worn if recommended in certain situations such as an outbreak of COVID or if staff deem necessary.

Guidance issued: Coronavirus (COVID-19): use of face coverings in social care settings including adult care homes. 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 last update.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents: --**

## Appendix 4: Shielding (2f)

### Shielding – Summary of the Impact on Refugees and Asylum Seekers

At the start of the pandemic, from March to August 2020, people who were considered at highest risk from COVID-19 (as a result of their health conditions) were instructed to shield. This meant staying at home, and even minimising contact with other household members. A range of support was put in place for people to help them shield, including food packages and a dedicated SMS advice service. After August 2020, the Scottish Chief Medical Officer [CMO] maintained a Shielding List (later known as the Highest Risk List) and periodically sent the people on this list advice about staying safe as COVID-19-related risks changed over time; until the list was closed down in April 2022. The aim of the change in policy, from August 2020, was to enable people to make more personalised choices about how to protect their health, rather than applying a blanket approach to shielding.

One fundamental question is how refugees' and asylum seekers' **living conditions affected their ability to shield**. Even setting aside asylum seeker accommodation and detention centres, which are the responsibility of the UK Government, refugees and asylum seekers who live in the community are more likely to be in poor-quality, overcrowded accommodation which makes shielding difficult; or even to be homeless. While considerable efforts were made, early in the pandemic, to house people who were homeless, the challenges of shielding in cramped and overcrowded accommodation remained.

People were identified as needing to shield based on an agreed list of health conditions, or individualised assessment by a clinician. In other words, people had to be known to health services. For refugees and asylum seekers who are **wary of engaging with public services**, or face practical barriers to doing so, it is possible that their needs were not identified, and consequently they may have been exposed to greater risk.

Digital exclusion (including lack of hardware, such as computers or mobile phones, and lack of internet access) may have further affected refugees' and asylum seekers' ability to access information and help while shielding. **Language and literacy barriers** may also be a key consideration, especially as the policy changed from a blanket approach to shielding, to a more individualised approach – it is not possible to make informed decisions about how to manage your own health and safety if you do not understand communication about the risks. We have flagged language and literacy barriers at key points in the timeline, but it should be borne in mind that these are a constant challenge for some refugees and asylum seekers, which will have affected their ability to access all COVID-19 and shielding-related information.

Finally, it appears that refugees' and asylum seekers' experiences were generally not explored in depth. Papers which investigated racial and ethnic differences in COVID-19 outcomes did not look into refugee / asylum seeker status. With one notable exception (see 5 October 2021) surveys of people's experiences of shielding were online-first or online-only, and were known to have less representation of people from backgrounds of greater socioeconomic deprivation. As such, the experience of shielding refugees and asylum seekers, together with other socially disadvantaged groups, is likely to have remained less well-understood throughout the pandemic.



## Shielding: Timeline 2020-2021

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**Key events (with dates):** 3 March 2020 SAGE reviewed non-clinical interventions to reduce and delay Covid-19 including Social distancing for those over 65.

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SPI-B
- **Relevant documents:** [Potential impact of behavioral and social interventions on an epidemic of Covid-19 in the UK](#)  
SAGE 12 Minutes
- **Commentary:** Conclude it will not contain an outbreak on its own and have a negligible effect on delaying an outbreak. However could have a 25-35% reduction in deaths and demand for critical care beds but only 5% of cases overall.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Measures discussed by SPI-B include home isolation of COVID-19 cases, and introduction of social distancing. Both measures are much harder to observe in crowded or poor-quality accommodation, or if you are homeless. For most asylum seekers, responsibility for accommodation sits with the UK Government. However, from Scotland's perspective, there may be a particular concern for refugees who may not have the resources to access decent housing, even after leaving asylum accommodation; and for homeless refugees and asylum seekers, including asylum seekers whose claim has been denied.

**Key events (with dates):** 10 March 2020 SAGE agreed that social distancing measures for the elderly should apply to those aged 70+.

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE

- **Relevant documents:** [Potential impact of behavioural and social interventions on an epidemic of Covid-19 in the UK](#)  
SAGE 14 Minutes
- **Commentary:** Modelling using 65+ and 70+ deliver comparable results, but there is a large drop off in efficacy if the measures are confined to 80+. SAGE advised that these social distancing interventions should consider 2 distinct groups: a) those aged 70+ who are generally well and b) vulnerable groups of all ages (including those aged 70+)
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 13 March 2020** The science suggests that household isolation and social distancing of the elderly and vulnerable should be implemented soon, provided they can be done well and equitably.

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Fifteenth SAGE meeting on Wuhan Coronavirus \(COVID- 19\) - 13 March 2020](#)  
SAGE 15 Minutes
- **Commentary:** Individuals who may want to distance themselves should be advised how to do so.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):16 March 2020** SPI-M-O advise on vulnerable groups

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SPI-M-O

- **Relevant documents:** [SPI-M-O: Consensus view on behavioural and social interventions, 16 March 2020](#)  
SAGE 16 Minutes
- **Commentary:** It was agreed that a combination of case isolation, household isolation and social distancing of vulnerable groups is very unlikely to prevent critical care facilities being overwhelmed.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):**18 March 2020 Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell announces £350m to support people in need.

- **Topic:** Funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** [Supporting communities funding: speech by Communities Secretary 18 March 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Third sector organisations play a key role in supporting refugees and asylum seekers. Adequate community support is an important safety net for asylum seekers, especially, who are required to [live on a weekly budget of between £35.39 to £37.75 per week](#).

**Key events (with dates):**22 March 2020 FM announces shielding measures for “most clinically vulnerable”

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government

- **Relevant documents:** FM speech: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's speech 22 March 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Those who must shield include people with “specific forms of cancer, severe respiratory conditions, rare diseases, have received organ transplants, are on immunosuppression therapies or who are pregnant and have congenital heart disease”  
Shielders will be contacted and offered support, through GPs and local resilience partnerships, with ongoing care, access to medicine and services, and access to food and support.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Significant considerations for refugees and asylum seekers:
  - Shared accommodation may mean it is not possible to shield at all
  - For those who do shield, poor quality accommodation may have a direct impact on physical and/or mental health
  - **Access to healthcare is not consistent** among refugees and asylum seekers: would everyone who needs to shield be on the radar of a GP or other service? Those who are not are likely to miss out on the added protection of shielding, and the associated support available.

**Key events (with dates):** **23 March 2020** Estimated COVID-19 fatalities are anticipated to overlap with those who are likely to be within the final year of their lives. It is important to get an accurate excess deaths estimate, including potential deaths due to the measures taken

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Options for increasing adherence to social distancing measures, 22 March 2020](#)

SAGE 18 Minutes

- **Commentary:** Guidance now needs to be reformulated to be behaviourally specific: **who** needs to do **what** (precisely) and **why** (explain the rationale)
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 24 March 2020 Shielding categories, requirements and support **announced** by Scottish Govt

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government; CMO
- **Relevant Documents:** Media statement: **Shielding people 'at risk' from coronavirus - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))**
- **Commentary:** 'Six categories of risk' announced (agreed by all UK CMOs):
  1. Solid organ transplant recipients
  2. People with specific cancers:
    - a. People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy for lung cancer
    - b. People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
    - c. People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
    - d. People having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
    - e. People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
  3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD
  4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of

metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell)

5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection

6. People who are pregnant with significant congenital heart disease

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See notes on 22 March 2020

**Key events (with dates): 26 March 2020** Letters start to be issued to people who are shielding

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant Documents:** Health Secretary's statement: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: Health Secretary's speech 26 April 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** As noted above, refugees and asylum seekers face barriers to accessing healthcare. Communications about shielding were primarily by letter (these were later released online); if a person had no point of contact within the health system, there was no obvious alternative route for them to receive this information. Although shielding letters are published in a range of languages, this is unlikely to have covered the full range of different language and literacy needs among
- refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): 27 March 2020** Scottish Govt publishes advice for unpaid carers

- **Topic:** Advice

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for unpaid carers (web, latest version 17 December 2021): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): advice for unpaid carers - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/healthandcare/coronavirus/covid-19/unpaid-carers)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** As above, possible language barriers faced by refugees and asylum seekers who are carers, meaning that they would not know about the advice and support available.

**Key events (with dates): 3 April 2020** FM statement includes [update on shielding](#)

- **Topic:** Statement
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant Documents:** FM statement: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's speech 3 April 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/healthandcare/coronavirus/covid-19/first-minister/speech-3-april-2020)  
Update on food and medicine deliveries for shielders: [Deliveries for high risk groups - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Topics/healthandcare/coronavirus/covid-19/shielders)
- **Commentary:** After de-duplication, Scottish Govt now estimates about 120,000 people should be shielding (initial estimate 200,000). CMO has sent out 110,000 letters, with the rest to follow shortly.  
Letters include advice on how to shield, and access to home deliveries of essential food & toiletries – 8,000 people already signed up.  
SG working with local health boards to ensure delivery of specialist medicines, incl chemotherapy drugs, to this group.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See notes on 23 March 2020. Refugees and asylum seekers who were not in contact with health services may have missed out on essential treatment and support.

**Key events (with dates):** 3 April 2020 Scottish Government produces **tailored advice for those who live with specific medical conditions.**

- **Topic:** Advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** **Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for people with specific medical conditions - gov.scot (nrscotland.gov.uk);** Published 17 Jul 2020
- **Commentary:** Conditions include: cancer, diabetes, heart disease, IBD; chronic kidney and liver disease; dermatological, neurological, (specific) ophthalmic, respiratory and rheumatic conditions, chronic pain, and rare diseases.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** No specific issues, however, language barriers may have prevented refugees and asylum seekers accessing appropriate information.

**Key events (with dates):** 9 April 2020 SAGE agreed the importance of further investigation, beyond 6 months, into impacts by region and by demographic, with particular focus on vulnerable social groups

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** **SAGE 24 minutes: Coronavirus (COVID-19) response, 9 April 2020**
- **Initial Estimates of Excess Deaths from COVID-19, 8 April 2020**



## **SPI-M-O: Combining COVID-19 short-term forecasts, 9 April 2020**

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** SAGE recommends further research into the impact of COVID-19 by region and demographic, including vulnerable social groups. (i.e., the need to understand the impact on refugees and asylum seekers, among others, was recognised from early on)  
N.B. this is a pan-UK recommendation, rather than Scotland-specific.

### **Key events (with dates): 11 April (and 21 April) 2020**

Temporary disruptions to the SMS service for people shielding

**Topic:** Service provision

**Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government

**Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 28376 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

**Commentary:** Disruptions prevented the service from sending out messages, but inbound messages were received.

**Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A

**Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 13 April 2020 [£50m Wellbeing Fund opened](#)** to assist charities, community and voluntary groups and social enterprises.

- **Topic:** Funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See notes on 18 March 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 14 April 2020 [New National helpline](#)** set up to provide essential assistance to high-risk individuals without family or community support.

- **Topic:** Service provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government Aileen Campbell; Council Chief Executives; third sector
- **Relevant documents:** FM statement on 20 April gives national helpline's remit: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's speech 20 April 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** National helpline is for people who are shielding, but **also** for people who are “potentially at risk in some other way – for example, people over the age of 70, people with disabilities, pregnant women, people who get the annual flu jab, and people who need support from mental health services.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Language barriers may have limited some people's ability to benefit from the helpline

**Key events (with dates): 16 April 2020 Additions to Shielding Groups 3 and 4**

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland

- **Relevant documents:** PHS Shielding Inclusion Criteria: [Search criteria for highest risk patients for inclusion to the shielding list \(windows.net\)](#) (see version history p2)
- **Commentary:** Interstitial Lung Disease and Sarcoidosis added to group 4, Oxygen Therapy to group 3
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 21 April 2020** SMS service starts signposting shielders to their Local Authorities for assistance with deliveries of medicine

- **Topic:** Service provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Local Authorities
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary question answered on 5 May 2020: [Written question and answer: S5W-28380 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Some refugees and asylum seekers will not have had access to a mobile phone, and will not have been able to benefit from advice and support via the SMS service.

**Key events (with dates): 22 April 2020** Review Panel set up to consider changes to shielding list At its first meeting, it agrees to add kidney dialysis patients to the list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, Review Panel
- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary to Health & Sport Committee ([link](#))

- **Commentary:** “The main remit of the Review Panel is to review the evidence on potential clinical risk factors for severe illness from COVID- 19; and advise the senior clinicians group on whether to add or remove specific conditions to the extremely clinically vulnerable group.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

Key events (with dates): **23 April 2020** FM says some form of shielding will be required “for the foreseeable future”

- **Topic:** Statement
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** FM statement: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: First Minister's speech 23 April 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See notes on 22 March 2020 – shielding poses additional challenges for refugees and asylum seekers.

Key events (with dates): **24 April 2020** As at this date, 159,126 people have been written to about shielding

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 28370 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** 111,578 identified from ‘central sources’ and 47,548 from ‘non-central sources’. People will continue to be added as they are newly diagnosed or as their clinician recommends

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See notes on 23 March 2020 – refugees and asylum seekers who are not in contact with health services may have been overlooked.

**Key events (with dates): 25 April 2020** Scottish Govt **announces** that unpaid/family carers will be included in national distribution of PPE

- **Topic:** Statement
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG media release: **Extending PPE access to all social care providers - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)**
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 26 April 2020** Health Secretary gives an **update on shielding**

- **Topic:** Statement
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Health Secretary's statement: **Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: Health Secretary's speech 26 April 2020 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)**
- **Commentary:** Approx 160,000 people in Scotland at highest clinical risk. 78,000 have registered for the text message service to ask for support & receive information. Letters to shielders sent out from 26 March 2020. More than 80,000 food packages delivered so far. 6 supermarkets have offered priority deliveries for shielders – over 33,000 people have registered interest. National helpline in place to direct people to local services.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 28 April 2020** Statement from the Health Secretary

- **Topic:** Statement
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Health Secretary's statement: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: Health Secretary Statement to Parliament 28 April 2020 -gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Information/Press/Statements/2020/04/28/2020042801)
- **Commentary:** Numbers of people shielding estimated at 150,000. Multi-disciplinary teams working on anticipatory care planning for people who are shielding.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 28 April 2020** Additions to Shielding Group 3

- **Topic:** Shielding List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland, NHS National Services Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** PHS Shielding Inclusion Criteria: [Search criteria for highest risk patients for inclusion to the shielding list \(windows.net\)](https://www.nhs.uk/clinical-guidance/shielding-inclusion-criteria/) (see version history p2)
- **Commentary:** Bronchiectasis and Pulmonary Hypertension added to Group 3
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 28 April 2020** Emerging inequity for some groups

**Topic:** Scientific advice

**Main body/persons involved:** SAGE

**Relevant documents:** [SAGE 29 minutes: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) response, 28 April 2020](#)

**CO-CIN:** [Investigating associations between ethnicity and outcome from COVID-19 - report to SAGE, 25 April 2020](#)

**CO-CIN:** [Case fatality by age in hospitalised patients, 21 April 2020](#)

**OpenSAFELY:** [Factors associated with COVID-19 related hospital deaths in adult NHS patients, 28 April 2020](#)

**Commentary:**

**Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

**Further explanation/supporting documents:** Evidence of racial / ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 outcomes begins to be identified as early as April 2020. Although data on refugee or asylum seeker status is not known, this could be a flag that refugees and asylum seekers are among those more likely to be harmed by the pandemic, with further research and data-collection required.

**Key events (with dates): 29 April 2020** Splenectomy patients added to shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding List

- **Main body/persons involved:** CMOs / Review Panel

- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary to Health & Sport Committee ([link](#))

Parliamentary question answered 5 May: [Written question and answer: S5W- 28772 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 5 May 2020** Parliamentary question about people shielding in prison

- **Topic:** Vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 28261 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** “Where someone is advised that they should be shielding then they should be accommodated in a single room and their meals should be provided in their cell.
- They should continue to be given access to the phone and showers. However, these should be thoroughly cleaned prior to use. [To help cope with isolation, a] range of innovative in-cell activities and means of
- family contact are also being progressed.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Although this question relates to shielding in prison, it is worth bearing in mind that a number of asylum seekers are also held in detention conditions in various “Immigration Removal Centres” around the UK, including Dungavel IRC in Scotland. This is primarily a UK Government responsibility.

**Key events (with dates): 11 May 2020** Scottish Government COVID- 19 Advisory Group discusses shielding

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SG COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:** Minutes of 11 May: [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 11 May 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** “3. The group discussed the important role that shielding plays in the latest guidance from the UK Government. It was agreed that shielding should also be considered in future guidance from the Scottish Government.



Increased covid-19 patient data will begin to allow researchers to begin to re-examine who is most at risk from the virus.”

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 14 May 2020** Scottish Govt **announces** that a quarter of a million packages of essential food and supplies have been delivered, to more than 50,000 people at highest clinical risk from Covid

- **Topic:** Service provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 14 May 2020: **Deliveries of essential supplies -gov.scot (www.gov.scot)**  
Subsequent FOI request about food boxes: **Individuals shielding receiving food boxes during lockdown: FOI release - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)**
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Service is offered via text message. For people without mobile phones, it's possible to set up the service by contacting the Local Authority – however, refugees who may be wary of engagement with public services are perhaps less likely to do this.

**Key events (with dates): 14 May 2020** Scottish Govt COVID-19 Advisory Group has a 'deep dive' discussion on shielding

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SG COVID-19 Advisory Group

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --
- **Commentary:** “The Advisory Group held a deep dive discussion on shielding, noting that the primary aim of the policy is to save lives but that shielding is very onerous for those being asked to isolate themselves completely for an extended period of time. The group noted the importance of making use of scientific knowledge to determine which groups are truly at highest risk. The group considered different approaches being taken to shielding internationally, noting a wide variation in approach. The group discussed that age is the strongest general risk factor, but that rare conditions by their nature may be difficult to accurately determine a level of risk for as they won’t show up in statistics.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** No specific issues identified; but the discussion appeared to focus exclusively on clinical, rather than social, indicators of vulnerability. This may have been a missed opportunity to consider socioeconomic barriers to shielding.

**Key events (with dates): 20 May 2020** Parliamentary question about anticipatory care planning

- **Topic:** End-of-life decisions
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, NHS Scotland, clinicians
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 28382 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** Question reflects concern about vulnerable pts being contacted by their GP with questions about DNACPR (among other things)

**Key events (with dates): 28 May 2020** highlights risks in the homeless sector, prisons sector (including custody suites), in immigrant reception centres and other institutions featuring vulnerable populations and communal facilities.

**Topic:** Scientific advice

**Main body/persons involved:** SAGE

**Relevant documents:** [Thirty-ninth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 28 May 2020](#)

**CO-CIN:** [Ethnicity and outcomes from COVID-19 in UK hospital patients using the ISARIC WHO Clinical Characterisation Protocol - prospective observational cohort study, 28 May 2020](#)

**Commentary:**

**Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

**Further explanation/supporting documents:** SAGE identifies a number of “high-risk institutional settings”. These include “immigration reception centres”, where refugees and asylum seekers may be held; and homeless shelters, which may provide support for refugees and asylum seekers among others.

**Key events (with dates): 31 May 2020** Health Secretary’s statement signals intent to move away from ‘blanket approach’ for people who are shielding

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, CMO
- **Relevant documents:** Health Secretary’s statement: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) update: Health Secretary’s speech 31 May 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- **Commentary:** At this stage, restrictions are beginning to be eased for wider society [first **announced on 28 May**], with no immediate changes for people who are shielding. Govt promises a move towards more nuanced guidance ‘within a couple of weeks’, but stresses that shielding measures are there because of the risk to people who have been asked to shield.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Moving towards a more personalised approach to shielding means more communication about risks & other considerations from the Scottish Government to people who are shielding. This may be more challenging than clear yes-or-no guidance for people who have language or literacy barriers.

**Key events (with dates): 2 June 2020** Parliamentary question about PPE

**Topic:** Service provision

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: **Written question and answer: S5W- 28612 | Scottish Parliament Website**
- **Commentary:** “secondary, primary and community care workers should wear a surgical mask when providing care to any individuals in the extremely vulnerable group undergoing shielding; regardless if they have possible
- or confirmed COVID-19 or not.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 3 June 2020** Scottish Govt **announce** additional £230.10 supplement to Carers Allowance to help through coronavirus

- **Topic:** Service provision

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 3 June 2020: [Extra payment for carers to help through coronavirus - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/extra-payment-for-carers-to-help-through-coronavirus)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** [Carers' Allowance / Supplement](#) is excluded by the "No Recourse to Public Funds" condition for asylum seekers, so carers who are also asylum seekers would not be able to benefit from this support.

**Key events (with dates):** 4 June 2020 SAGE noted increased risk of ICU admission and death from COVID-19 among BAME groups compared to non-BAME groups

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Fortieth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 4 June 2020](#)  
[Ethnicity and COVID-19: preliminary meeting for SAGE, 2 June 2020](#)  
[SPI-M-O: Consensus Statement on COVID-19, 3 June 2020](#)  
[PHE: COVID-19 – review of disparities in risks and outcomes, 4 June 2020](#)  
[Academics: Ethnic and socioeconomic differences in SARS-CoV-2 infection: prospective cohort study using UK Biobank, 4 June 2020](#)  
[Ethnicity and Outcomes from COVID-19: The ISARIC CCP-UK prospective observational cohort study of hospitalised patients, 3 June 2020](#)
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 28 April 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 5 June 2020** Scottish Govt email to voluntary groups (charities / representative groups) working with people who are potentially required to shield

- **Topic:** Consultation
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** FOI response includes original email and replies from various stakeholder groups: [Shielding consultation: FOI release - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Feedback was sought in order to:
  - Inform next steps
  - Understand the challenges faced by specific groups of people who have to shield
  - Explore how ScotGov can better support charities that are themselves working to support people who are shielding
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** It is not clear which organisations were classed as stakeholders for this consultation ([see p3-4 of Part C in the FOI release](#) for the original email) but almost all responses were from groups representing people with particular health conditions, so it's possible that organisations working with socially disadvantaged groups, including refugees and asylum seekers, were not engaged at this stage.

**Key events (with dates): 8 June 2020** New [guidance](#) published: "Coronavirus (COVID-19): Shielding – a way forward for Scotland"

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, CMO

- **Relevant documents:** SG guidance: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): shielding - a way forward for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-shielding-a-way-forward-for-scotland/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)
- **Commentary:** Extends shielding period to 31 July. Shielders to be allowed outside from 18 June. Because 'different things matter to different people', SG plan to move to a situation where risks are communicated clearly to people who are shielding, who can then choose how they respond to them.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 31 May 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 8 June 2020** Scottish Government updates on how communities funding has been spent – including on voluntary organisations supporting people who are shielding.

- **Topic:** Funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 8 June 2020: [Immediate Priorities Fund: organisations funded - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/immediate-priorities-fund-organisations-funded/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 19 June 2020** SG announces some revisions to guidance for people who are shielding

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG media release, 18 June 2020: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Phase 2: Scotland's route map update - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-2-scotland-route-map-update/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)  
[Gradual introduction of Phase 2 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/gradual-introduction-of-phase-2/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)

- **Commentary:** People who are shielding are able to exercise outdoors, take part in non- contact group activities like golf and hiking, and meet with one other household outdoors, in groups of up to 8 people, while maintaining 2m distance. SG also indicates that it wants to move away from a “blanket approach” for people who are shielding. “Extended household groups” are introduced, but these **exclude** households with people who are shielding.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 31 May 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 2 July 2020** Children & young people advised that guidance on who needs to shield is changing

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements, shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, RCPCH
- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary to Health & Sport Committee ([link](#))
- **Commentary:** Following RCPCH review of guidance, CMO writes to children and young people to advise that shielding guidance is being changed, and some will be contacted by their clinicians if a discussion is needed about stopping shielding
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): July 2020** Scottish Govt COVID-19 Advisory Group considers risk factors and how to manage these in Scottish context

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SG COVID-19 Advisory Group



- **Relevant documents:** Minutes of 2 July: [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 2 July 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Group considers issues related to risk (incl age, gender, ethnicity, deprivation).  
"It is important that any tools developed at UK level are validated for use in Scotland as rapidly as possible and integrated with existing systems. Local background risk is an important consideration. Important also to acknowledge different types of harm.  
Young are at low risk now but will be most impacted by long term non-covid impacts."
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** The Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group aims to understand factors which drive COVID-related risk in Scotland specifically. They recognise ethnicity and deprivation as key concerns, but do not directly address refugee / asylum seeker status.

**Key events (with dates): 8 July 2020** Potential 'pause' to shielding, and changes to guidance, announced

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG media release, 8 July 2020: [Next steps for people shielding - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** CMO to write to all shielders to outline new guidelines, incl plan to pause shielding from 1 August 2020 if safe to do so.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Asylum seekers and refugees typically have very limited resources, and little to no control over where they live. When Scotland

switched away from mandatory shielding (and associated support), some people chose to continue shielding on a voluntary basis, making the decisions they considered safest for their own health.

However, this option was unlikely to be available to refugees and asylum seekers, without the resources to sustain themselves.

**Key events (with dates):** 10 July 2020 Further changes to shielding rules

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG media release, 8 July 2020: [Next steps for people shielding - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-for-people-shielding/)
- **Commentary:** People who are shielding do not need to physically distance from those they live with. Can meet in groups of up to 8 people from 2 other households, outdoors, while maintaining hand hygiene & physical distancing. Can form an “extended household” with one other household, if
- living alone.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates):** 23 July 2020 Changes to shielding guidance announced, with confirmation shielding will be paused from 1 August 2020

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Media statement: [Shielding to be paused - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/shielding-to-be-paused/)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 31 May and 8 July 2020.

**Key events (with dates): 23 July 2020** SAGE considered population segmentation by age

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Forty-eighth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 23 July 2020](#)  
[SPI-M-O: Statement on population segmentation by age group, 22 July 2020](#)
- **Commentary:** SAGE advised that segmentation by age in this way (around age 45) is not without considerable risk and is unlikely to be successful in reducing mortality and morbidity
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 24 July 2020** People who have been shielding can now meet people indoors and outdoors, access indoor services, etc.

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Media release: [Shielding to be paused - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** People who have been shielding can meet indoors with 8 people from 2 households; visit indoor shops, services and attractions; meet outdoors with 15 people from 4 households; and use taxis and public transport. Children who live with someone who is shielding can now attend formal childcare provision.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 29 July 2020** Parliamentary question about deaths of people on the shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W-30159 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** 4,061 people on the shielding list had died
- [of all causes] by 29 June 2021
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 1 August 2020** Shielding requirements paused

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements, Service provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Media release: [Shielding to be paused - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) Shielding requirements (and related services) end in Scotland, England and Northern Ireland on 1 August; BBC reports shielders don't feel safe to go back to work: [Coronavirus: Shielding ends for two million in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland - BBC News](#)

- **Commentary:** “Deliveries of weekly grocery boxes to people shielding will continue until the end of July for those already signed up. Priority access to supermarket delivery slots will also continue for those who have signed up before 31 July.

A SMS Shielding Service has been set up for the latest updates about shielding. People can join the SMS Shielding Service by sending a text from their mobile phones to 0786 006 4525.

Scottish Government is also developing a COVID-19 forecasting service for shielding. It will allow people who have been shielding to sign up to an SMS update that tells

them about their risk of being exposed to COVID-19 in their local area.”

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 8 July 2020 about implications of the ‘pause’ to shielding.  
See comments on 21 April 2020 about possible exclusion from the SMS service.

**Key events (with dates): 3 August 2020** Cabinet Secretary explains why & how some people are removed from the shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport; CMO
- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary ([link](#))
- **Commentary:** Reasons for removal include:
  - \*transplant false positives (either a donor, or an error)
  - \*cancer misidentifications (people who received radical radiotherapy for cancers other than lung cancer)
  - \*people receiving biologics for rheumatology (other immunosuppression therapies were included, but these did not increase risk)
  - \*other – following clinician’s individualised reassessment of riskBy 29 July, 10,303 people had been removed from shielding list
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 6 August 2020** Those protecting vulnerable people may benefit from guidance on how to protect themselves. There are likely to be pros and cons to more formal measures for protectors.

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** **Fiftieth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 6 August 2020**  
**Protecting high risk individuals as an approach to controlling COVID-19 outbreaks, 4 August 2020**  
**Academics: Segmentation and shielding of the most vulnerable members of the population as elements of an exit strategy from COVID-19 lockdown, 31 May 2020**
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 13 August 2020** SAGE discuss shielding impact

**Topic:** Scientific advice

**Main body/persons involved:** SAGE

**Relevant documents:** **Fifty-first SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 13 August 2020**

**Commentary:** SAGE agreed on the value of bringing together datasets to fully analyse impacts of shielding on the vulnerable, which will help to produce a more holistic view of the impact of shielding's health and societal impacts

**Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

**Further explanation/supporting documents:** SAGE is expecting analysis of shielding's impact on "the vulnerable"; unclear if this will include analysis by refugee / asylum seeker status.

**Key events (with dates): 14 August 2020** Confirmation that flu vaccination programme will be extended to household members of people shielding

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 30905 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): September 2020** PHS publishes results of Shielding study

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** Shielding Impact and Experience report: [COVID-19 Shielding Programme \(Scotland\) Impact and Experience Survey \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** 12,851 ppts (7% of all shielders)  
Negative impacts reported on quality of life (87%), physical activity (85%) and mental health (72%). However, 71% said they were coping OK with shielding.  
Among socioeconomically vulnerable respondents:  
>48% (vs 71%) were coping OK  
>88% (vs 72%) reported –ve impact on mental health  
>26% (vs 7%) struggled to meet their food needs
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** No information about refugee / asylum seeker status is included, so the survey is not able to distinguish whether refugees or asylum seekers experienced particular challenges with shielding.

PHS recognises that people who are digitally excluded or without internet access (which includes many refugees and asylum seekers) would not have been able to complete the survey, which was only available online.

**Key events (with dates): 12 October 2020** Scottish Govt COVID-19 Advisory Group hears presentation on latest shielding policy

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SG COVID-19 Advisory Group
- **Relevant documents:** Minutes of 12 October: [Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group minutes: 12 October 2020 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Information/Press/Statements/2020/10/12-10-2020-11-11-2020)
- **Commentary:** “3. The group also heard a presentation on the developments in the Scottish Government’s Shielding Policy ('Coronavirus (COVID-19): shielding - a way forward for Scotland') and the work being done to take this forward in light of the latest developments in the pandemic.”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 15 October 2020** SAGE considers population segmentation by age

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Sixty-second SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 15 October 2020](#)  
[SPI-M-O: Summary of SAGE advice on segmentation, 15 October 2020](#)  
[SPI-M-O: Medium-term projections, 14 October 2020](#)
- **Commentary:** Segmenting the population by age is not without considerable risk, is operationally difficult, and is unlikely to be successful in reducing mortality and morbidity.



However, taking additional precautions in those at increased risk is important

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 20 October 2020** Parliamentary question about teachers on the shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements, Education
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary Q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 32356 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** According to return to school guidance, teachers formerly on the shielding list can return to the classroom, subject to individualised risk assessment
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 23 October 2020** CMO writes to people on the shielding list about Levels system & Vitamin D

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to CMO's letter  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** CMO letter explains Scotland's five-tier Levels system, and includes additional advice for people on the shielding list to stay safe at each level.  
Former shielders are also invited to opt-in to receive a free, 4-month, daily dose of vitamin D to boost their levels (especially as they were indoors until June)

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Race/ethnicity is a **pre-existing risk factor for Vitamin D deficiency**, which is exacerbated by shielding. It would be useful to know if particular efforts were made to reach the people most at risk.

**Key events (with dates): 29 October 2020** SAGE Guidance Consideration to vulnerable populations

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** **Sixty-fourth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 29 October 2020**  
**University of Edinburgh and Health Protection Scotland: Mortality due to a second wave of COVID-19 in Scotland: The case for additional measures to protect the vulnerable, 5 October 2020**
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Papers considered by SAGE indicate that racial/ethnic variation in COVID-19 outcomes is still not fully understood.

**Key events (with dates): 30 October 2020** People with Down's Syndrome added to shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, Review Panel
- **Relevant documents:** Information sheet from Down's Syndrome Scotland: **DSS- Shielding-QandA-30-Oct-2020.pdf (dsscotland.org.uk)**

QCOVID study published in BMJ: [Living risk prediction algorithm \(QCOVID\) for risk of hospital admission and mortality from coronavirus 19 in adults: national derivation and validation cohort study | The BMJ](#)

- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 2 November 2020** People with Chronic Kidney Disease stage 5 added to shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, Review Panel
- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport ([link](#))
- **Commentary:** Decisions based on findings from QCOVID model
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 26 November 2020** SAGE consider transmission risks during festive period

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Seventieth SAGE meeting on COVID-19 - 26 November 2020](#)  
[EMG/SPI-B: Mitigating risks of SARS-CoV-2 transmission associated with household social interactions, 26 November 2020](#)
- **Commentary:** Avoiding social contacts for a period greater than the typical SARS-CoV-2 incubation period (which is around 5 days) before meeting older or vulnerable people at Christmas will reduce the risk to them

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): December 2020** Shielders receive a Christmas card from the Scottish Government

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to card  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Card includes guidance for higher risk people on staying safe over the festive period; includes a checklist they can share with others in their bubble so that everyone knows how to protect them.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 3 December 2020** CMO writes to people newly added to the shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Letter explains that you have been added to the 'shielding list' because you have been identified as vulnerable, but you are **not** being asked to shield. The purpose of the list is to ensure you're kept up-to-date with additional information, services etc.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and**

**asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**

- **Further explanation/supporting documents: --**

**Key events (with dates): 4 December 2020** CMO writes to all people on the shielding list, with “Balancing the Risk of Daily Activities” booklet

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter [Link](#) to booklet  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Booklet includes guidance on staying safe at different Levels, including staying safe at work / support with workplace safety.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents: --**

**Key events (with dates): 21 December 2020** Shielding survey opens (closes on 11 January 2021)

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government  
Population Health Directorate
- **Relevant documents:** Source: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): shielding survey report - January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** 4,590 people respond – see below for findings
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? Yes**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** As with the PHS survey, this survey was likely to have been inaccessible to people who are digitally excluded.



**February 2021** CMO writes to people on shielding list about voting

- **Key events (with dates):** safely in the upcoming elections
- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter from CMO  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 16 February 2021** Data on take-up of free Vitamin D published

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, NHS Education for Scotland
- **Relevant documents:** Report from NHS Education for Scotland: [Vitamin D Take-up: sociodemographics, local authority, aSnd health board \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** 40% of shielders took up the scheme (71,365 people)
  - Take up was highest among 45- 64 year olds
  - Lower take-up in the more deprived deciles of the shielding cohort
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 23 October 2020. Take- up of Vitamin D was lower among people in conditions of greater socioeconomic deprivation, which is likely to include more refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): 17 February 2021** Confirmation that children from a household with someone shielding can return to school

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements, Education
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Parliamentary q: [Written question and answer: S5W- 35010 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)
- **Commentary:** “Schools are not high risk environments when the appropriate mitigations and safety measures are implemented”
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 22 February 2021** People with liver cirrhosis (Child-Pugh Class B and C) added to shielding list

- **Topic:** Shielding list
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO, Review Panel
- **Relevant documents:** Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Health & Sport ([link](#))  
[Outcomes following SARS-CoV-2 infection in patients with chronic liver disease: An international registry study -ScienceDirect](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 22 February 2021** Shielding survey results published

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government Population Health Directorate
- **Relevant documents:** Survey: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): shielding survey report - January 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)



- **Commentary:** 86% plan to get the vaccine when available
  - 55% feel unsafe about returning to work, despite workplace risk assessment
  - 96% were aware of the additional guidance for people at higher risk
  - 62% felt confident to decide which activities are safe
 Since July, 34% of shielders have left their home on a daily basis, but 20% have never visited shops, 33% have never met people outside their household, and 84% have never been on public transport.
 

9% of respondents had not received a letter telling them to shield, so were not permitted to complete the survey.

85% heard about the guidance in personal letters from the CMO and 74% in a text from the Shielding SMS service; only 35% from the daily briefings.

23% are still struggling to access healthcare appointments
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? Yes**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on 21 December 2020

**Key events (with dates): 22 February 2021** Group 6 [people with underlying conditions & unpaid carers] begin to receive vaccinations

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 22 February 2021: [Next stage for vaccine programme - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/news/next-stage-for-vaccine-programme/)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? N/A**
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 11 March 2021** SAGE considers opportunities to improve vaccination uptake among people with severe mental illness

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SPI-B, SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Severe Mental Illness and COVID-19 Vaccination](#)  
SAGE 83 Minutes
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 15 March 2021** Unpaid carers are able to register themselves for a COVID-19 vaccination

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 12 March 2021: [Launch of new vaccination campaign - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 23 March 2021** CMO writes to people on shielding list about returning to work

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- **Commentary:** The letter is valid until 30 June 2021. People on the shielding list should show it to their employer to explain they cannot go to into work if they live or work in a Level 4 area.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 24 March 2021** Second version of Scotland's COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan published

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** March 2021 update to Vaccine Deployment Plan: [COVID-19+vaccine+deployment+plan+-+update+-+24+March+2021.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2021/03/COVID-19+vaccine+deployment+plan+-+update+-+24+March+2021.pdf)
- **Commentary:** 164,357 people on the shielding list have now received vaccinations (93%)  
Following JCVI advice, Phase 2 will involve vaccine rollout to: 40-49 year olds, 30-39 year olds; 18-29 year olds.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 24 March 2021** SAGE considers differential health outcomes for minority ethnic groups

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** COVID-19 Ethnicity subgroup, SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Interpreting differential health outcomes among minority ethnic groups in wave 1 and 2](#)  
SAGE 84 minutes
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** SAGE considers racial/ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 outcomes in some detail, and identifies areas for further action or research. However, the specific role of refugee or asylum seeker status is not explored.

**Key events (with dates): 24 March 2021** SAGE considers COVID-19 transmission in prisons

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** EMG, SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [COVID-19 Transmission in Prison Settings](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Considerations from prison settings may also have application to immigration detention centres.

**April 2021** Adult 'household contacts' of people on the shielding list invited to receive

- **Key events (with dates):** vaccinations
- **Topic:** Vaccinations, Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 6 April 2021** Schools to return full-time after Easter, but children on shielding list advised to stay home until 26 April

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, CMO
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release: [Return to full-time school - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Children who are shielding in refugee / asylum seeker households, or unaccompanied children who are shielding, may face additional barriers to accessing education remotely (including language, access to technology, quiet space to study) and to catching up on education after return to school.

**Key events (with dates): 26 April 2021** People on the shielding list can return to school, or to work if they cannot work from home, as all of Scotland moves to Level 3 or lower.

- **Topic:** Shielding requirements
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter from CMO  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** Household contacts of people on shielding list are offered access to free lateral flow tests
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 30 April 2021** SAGE considers papers on behavioural measures to mitigate transmission of COVID-19

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SPI-B, SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Sustaining behaviours to reduce SARS-CoV-2 transmission](#)  
[Considerations in implementing long-term 'baseline' Non- Pharmaceutical Interventions \(NPIs\)](#)  
SAGE 87 minutes
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 3 June 2021** SAGE considers paper on vaccine outcomes

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** Public Health Scotland; EAVE II
- **Relevant documents:** [Demographics, Hospital Outcomes and Vaccine Effect of S Gene Positive Cases in Scotland from April 01 2020](#)  
SAGE 91 minutes
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): July 2021** CMO writes to people on shielding list about move to Level 0

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO

- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter from CMO  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** At Level 0, people on shielding list encouraged to follow same restrictions as the general population.  
Change of terminology from 'shielding' to 'highest risk'
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): July 2021** Survey of people in the Highest Risk Group begins

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Survey results: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): highest risk - survey report - July 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** See below (Aug 27)
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** As with previous surveys, people who are digitally excluded would not have been able to participate.

**Key events (with dates): 15 July 2021** SAGE considers paper on winter preparedness

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS), SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [COVID-19: Preparing for the future. Looking ahead to winter 2021/22 and beyond](#)
- SAGE 94 minutes
- **Commentary:**

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** This paper from AMS flags the importance of considering socially disadvantaged groups (including people from ethnic minorities and people who are homeless) for effective winter planning. Refugee / asylum seeker status is not mentioned as a specific vulnerability.

**Key events (with dates): 23 July 2021** Third version of Scotland's COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan published

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Scotland's COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan – July 2021: [Vaccines+directorate+-+COVID- 19+coronavirus+vaccine+-+update+on+COVID- 19+vaccine+deployment+plan+-+JULY+2021+-+FINAL.pdf \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/vaccines-directorate-covid-19-coronavirus-vaccine-update-on-covid-19-vaccine-deployment-plan-july-2021-final/pdf)
- **Commentary:** 96% of people on the shielding list have now been vaccinated.

All household contacts of people on the shielding list are now being offered vaccinations, in order to ensure that this reaches all household contacts of people who are immunosuppressed. Booking available via national vaccination helpline (only).

Interim JCVI advice indicates that anyone aged over 16 who is immunosuppressed should receive a booster vaccine alongside their annual flu vaccination from September.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --



**Key events (with dates): 29 July 2021** Scottish Government announce nine projects supporting carers and disabled people will share **£1 million to tackle loneliness and isolation** as a result of the pandemic

- **Topic:** Funding
- **Main body/persons involved:** Minister for Equalities and Older People Christina McKelvie
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021 <https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-1m-to-tackle-social-isolation-and-loneliness/>
- **Commentary:** First round of £10 million funding for groups affected by pandemic.
  - to support a new five-year social Isolation and loneliness plan, and marks the delivery of a commitment for the first 100 days of this government.
  - Focused on reconnecting people as Scotland comes out of the pandemic and tackling loneliness
- head on.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Some of this funding may benefit organisations and projects that include refugees and asylum seekers.

**Key events (with dates): August 2021** CMO writes to people on shielding list about moving beyond Level 0

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
  - **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
  - **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to CMO's letter [Support to Clear Your Head](#) leaflet also sent, to provide advice and support on mental health impacts of being at highest risk of COVID-19
- All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

- **Commentary:** No requirement to shield, except for individuals who are shielding on the specific advice of their clinician.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 27 August 2021** Results of survey of Highest Risk Group published

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** Survey results: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): highest risk - survey report - July 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/resources/documents/2021/07/20210727_Coronavirus_COVID-19_highest_risk_survey_report.pdf)
- **Commentary:** 59% felt uncomfortable about move to Level 0 and beyond (100% of those were worried about the behaviour of others)
  - 24% have not met outdoors, and 50% have not met indoors, with people who are not part of their (extended) household
  - 2% have not left home for any reason
  - 73% of those who expect to return to work felt uncomfortable about this
  - 98% have received both doses of the vaccine (30% of those who had not said they were worried about the side effects)
  - 79% had never been on public transport
  - 73% were interested in some kind of wearable identifier for requesting people keep their distance
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** See comments on July 2021 about digital exclusion.

**Key events (with dates): 1 Sept 2021** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) publish guidance advising that people who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose of the vaccine **should be offered a third dose.**

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** PHE press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-third-dose-vaccination-for-severely-immunosuppressed>
- **Commentary:** This third dose should be offered to people over 12 who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose, including those with:
  - Leukaemia
  - advanced HIV
  - recent organ transplants.These people may not mount a full response to vaccination and therefore may be less protected than the wider population.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 14 Sept 2021** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) publish guidance advising that booster vaccines **be offered to those more at risk from serious disease**, and who were vaccinated during Phase 1 of the vaccine programme.

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** PHE press release: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-updated-advice-on-covid-19-booster-vaccination>

- **Commentary:** This includes:
  - those living in residential care homes for older adults
  - all adults aged 50 years or over
  - frontline health and social care workers
  - all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and adult carers
  - adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 30 Sept 2021** Scottish Government announce **Invitations for coronavirus (COVID-19) booster injections** are issued to people aged 70 and over and those aged 16 and over who are at highest risk, with appointments scheduled from the week beginning 4 October.

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release 30 Sept 2021: <https://www.gov.scot/news/vaccination-programme-progression/>
- **Commentary:** Sets out plans for administering third primary doses to people who are immunosuppressed and boosters for all those eligible
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 5 October 2021** Results of phone interviews with people on the Highest Risk List published

- **Topic:** Study
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government

- **Relevant documents:** Study results: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): highest risk – interviews report – August 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:** 12 in-depth interviews, with people who were immunosuppressed and either returning to the workplace, or who are not in work.
  - Ppts need individualised, condition-specific info about vaccine efficacy in order to understand & manage their own risk
  - Getting 'back to normal' is a slow process, and disability / mobility issues may limit contact outside the home in any case
  - Accessing healthcare still difficult for many
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Recruitment criteria aimed to address gaps in previous studies, including ethnic minority status (however, this was a qualitative sample of 12 people, so offers a different kind of information to broad quantitative surveys). Refugee / asylum seeker status is not directly addressed.

**Key events (with dates): 25 Oct 2021** Invitations for the flu and COVID-19 Booster vaccination programmes [begin for the next eligible groups](#). Invitation letters for people aged 60 to 69 and adults aged 16 and over with underlying health conditions are sent out from 25 October.

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release 25 Oct 2021: <https://www.gov.scot/news/flu-and-covid-19-vaccine-roll-out/>

- **Commentary:** Currently, as per JCVI advice, we are vaccinating people in the highest risk groups for both flu and COVID-19 including those who are aged 70 years and over, people in older adult care homes, those who are on the Highest Risk List and frontline health and social care workers
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 15 Nov 2021** Scottish Government launch an [online portal for the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme](#). The portal allows people aged 50 to 59, unpaid carers who are 16 and over, and those aged 16 and over who are household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals to book their booster and flu jabs.

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release 15 Nov 2021: <https://www.gov.scot/news/online-portal-for-autumnwinter-vaccination-programme/>
- **Commentary:** If you are eligible for a flu vaccination it is highly likely that you will also be eligible for a COVID-19 booster.
  - Household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Digital exclusion / lack of access to internet may have prevented asylum seekers and refugees from being able to use the online portal.

**Key events (with dates): December 2021** CMO writes to people on shielding list with information about the Omicron variant

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO

- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to CMO's letter  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

Key events (with dates): **21 December 2021** SAGE considers paper on the omicron variant

- **Topic:** Scientific advice
- **Main body/persons involved:** SAGE
- **Relevant documents:** [Impact on shielding on care homes during wave 2: Considerations for Omicron](#)  
SAGE 101 minutes
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

Key events (with dates): **7 January 2022** Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advise [there is no immediate need to introduce a second booster dose, or fourth jab, to the most vulnerable](#). The JCVI also advise that priority should continue to be given to rolling out first booster doses to all age groups.

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** JCVI
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release 7<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022: <https://www.gov.scot/news/online-portal-for-autumnwinter-vaccination-programme/>

- **Commentary:** The current data shows the booster dose is continuing to provide high levels of protection against severe disease, even for the most vulnerable older age groups
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 23 January 2022** “Distance Aware” scheme launched

- **Topic:** Service provision
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60082436>
- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government launches its Distance Aware scheme which allows people to obtain free badges and lanyards showing a yellow shield if they are worried about COVID risks in public spaces and wishing to indicate to others they would like to be given space.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key events (with dates): 26 January 2022** CMO writes to Highest Risk List about new “Distance Aware” scheme and priority PCR tests

- **Topic:** Shielding communications
- **Main body/persons involved:** CMO
- **Relevant documents:** [Link](#) to letter from CMO  
All correspondence with Highest Risk Group (formerly Shielding): [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): communications to the high risk group - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --



**Key events (with dates): 4 February 2022** Scottish Government announce **flu vaccinations are on offer again** until the end of March for those in high risk groups (the programme was paused in December so that health boards could prioritise the delivery of COVID-19 booster jabs).

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** SG press release 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022: <https://www.gov.scot/news/online-portal-for-autumnwinter-vaccination-programme/>
- **Commentary:**
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

## **Shielding: Timeline 2022**

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**Key event (date):** 18-Jan-22: Meeting of Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Scottish Parliament (Health, Social Care and Sport Committee)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.parliament.scot/api/sitecore/CustomMedia/OfficialReport?meetingId=13529>
- **Commentary:** Susie Fitton of Inclusion Scotland describes to the committee the impact of lockdown on disabled children and young people who were shielding. Based on their research those shielding experienced increased stress, fear, anxiety and sleep disturbance, and pre-existing mental health conditions were exacerbated. She further notes that families of disabled children and young people who were shielding and relied on external care were placed in very stressful and difficult situations when care was reduced or eliminated. Parents also noted regression in terms of social

and independent living skills, and also low mood and self-harm behaviours due to the removal of structure, daily activity, routine, face-to-face contact with friends and access to the outdoors. In addition, people who were shielding found it particularly difficult to access food, medicine and to get the support they needed.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** These challenges were likely to be further exacerbated for children in asylum seeker or refugee households, or unaccompanied children.

**Key event (date):**23-Jan-22: 'Distance Aware' scheme is launched

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-distance-aware-scheme/?utm\\_source=redirect&utm\\_medium=shorturl&utm\\_campaign=distanceaware](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-distance-aware-scheme/?utm_source=redirect&utm_medium=shorturl&utm_campaign=distanceaware)
- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government's voluntary 'Distance Aware' scheme is launched, which offers badges and lanyards to people who wish to show others they would welcome additional space and extra care while out in public.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**25-Jan-22: CMO letter to those on the Highest Risk (formerly Shielding) List

- **Topic:** Communicating with individuals on Highest Risk List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Chief Medical Officer

- **Relevant documents:**

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/correspondence/2020/12/coronavirus-COVID-19-shielding-letters/documents/chief-medical-officer---january-guidance-2022/chief-medical-officer---january-guidance-2022-english-version/chief-medical-officer---january-guidance-2022-english-version/govscot%3Adocument/Chief%2BMedical%2BOfficer-January%2BGuidance%2B2022%2B%2528English%2BVersion%2529.pdf>

- **Commentary:** CMO writes to those on the Highest Risk List to reiterate advice on taking COVID-19 tests, what to do to stay safe, supports available, and introduces the Distance Aware Scheme. CMO advises to follow same guidance for everyone else in Scotland unless advised otherwise by GP or clinician, to keep up to date with vaccinations/boosters, wear face coverings when needed, washing hands and ensure adequate indoor ventilation.

Testing:

- priority PCR testing available for those on Highest Risk List
- lateral flow tests twice per week recommended for those on Highest Risk List and before socializing or traveling.
- self-isolation is required immediately if LFT is positive. A PCR test result is needed if applying for the Self-Isolation Support Grant

Distance Aware Scheme:

- badges or lanyards available to anyone who wishes to display to others that they wish for additional space

Support with mental health, wellbeing and loneliness:

- call NHS 24 mental health hub on 111
- talk to health care provider
- NHS inform website
- Clear Your Head website
- Breathing Space phone service
- Samaritans call support

- British Red Cross Coronavirus Helpline
- Connecting With You service
- National Assistance Helpline for assistance with support to get food, medicine, essentials

Returning to work guidance and support:

- government website
- Fair Start Scotland (one-to-one support for up to 18 months, Highest Risk List individuals should be eligible)

No One Left Behind

- Skills Development Scotland – Access to Work

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**28-Jan-22: Key Milestone: Antiviral (PF-07321332+ritonavir) made available to those with weakened immune systems

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** UK Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/second-ground-breaking-antiviral-to-be-deployed-to-countrys-most-vulnerable>
- **Commentary:** PF-07321332+ritonavir will be made available to those with weakened immune systems from Thursday 10 February  
 Innovative treatment reduced the risk of hospitalisation or death by 88% in clinical trials  
 The UK has procured more antivirals per head than any other country in Europe with over 4.98m courses ordered so far
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**4-Feb-22: Scottish Government announce flu vaccinations are on offer again until the end of March for those in high risk groups

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/flu-vaccination-programme-success/>
- **Commentary:** Scottish Government announce flu vaccinations are on offer again until the end of March for those in high risk groups (the programme was paused in December so that health boards could prioritise the delivery of COVID-19 booster jobs).
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**10-Feb-22: Letter regarding review of mental health services

**Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups

- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government (Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to the Citizen Participation and Public Receptions Committee)
- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-citizen-participation-and-public-petitions-committee/correspondence/2021/pe1871\\_i-cabinet-secretary-for-health-and-social-care-submission-of-10-february-2022](https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-citizen-participation-and-public-petitions-committee/correspondence/2021/pe1871_i-cabinet-secretary-for-health-and-social-care-submission-of-10-february-2022)
- **Commentary:** Discussion of the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund as a means of support for those on the shielding list.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes

- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund focuses on mental health inequalities exacerbated by the pandemic, including those experienced by refugees and people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

**Key event (date):**10-Feb-22: SAGE meeting

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** UK Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1054509/S1509\\_SAGE\\_105\\_minutes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054509/S1509_SAGE_105_minutes.pdf)
- **Commentary:** SAGE discusses the social and behavioural impacts of removing access to free testing. They note removing free testing will make testing and other precautionary actions more difficult, and may increase anxiety in those who found testing reassuring after a possible exposure. This is a particular concern for those who are or who care for someone critically vulnerable.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**21-Feb-22:

Second COVID- 19 boosters made available to high-risk individuals

- **Topic:** Vaccinations
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/second-boosters-for-at-risk-groups/>
- **Commentary:** A second booster dose at least 24 weeks after initial booster is made available for individuals 75 years of age and over, older adults that are residents of care homes, and those over 12 years old who are immunosuppressed.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**22-Feb-22: Scotland's Strategic Framework Update Supporting People at Highest Risk

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/strategy-plan/2022/02/coronavirus-COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/documents/COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022/govscot%3Adocument/COVID-19-scotlands-strategic-framework-update-february-2022.pdf>
- **Commentary:** Given the wide range of circumstances and health conditions of people on the Highest Risk List, ensuring personalised advice and support is available to each individual on the list is an important part of this transitional period. GPs and clinicians who best know the circumstances of those people at highest risk will continue to be the first port of call for individual clinical advice. For some time now, we have advised people on the Highest Risk List to follow general population-wide advice and guidance unless advised otherwise by their clinician, and we will now consider if people need to continue to be on a Highest Risk List.  
 We will continue to ensure people at highest risk know where to turn if they need further guidance. Clinicians and GPs will continue to provide advice tailored to the personal circumstances and conditions of each individual on the Highest Risk List as they would have before the pandemic.  
 We will:

- provide further advice and information to support this group, particularly on issues related to mental health and loneliness;
- working with our Clinical Advisory Group, to provide support to those who no longer need to be on the list where the evidence indicates that they are no longer at highest risk;
- continue to respond to scientific and clinical advice regarding COVID treatments, making sure that those who we know will benefit most from them are able to access them; and,
- continue to look at ways to identify and support people who may be at highest risk, taking into account potential new variants and emerging evidence
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately? Yes Further explanation/supporting documents:** Refugees and asylum seekers may be disadvantaged if they are not in contact with health services.

**Key event (date):**Mar-22: CMO letter to those on the Highest Risk (formerly Shielding) List

- **Topic:** Communicating with individuals on Highest Risk List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Chief Medical Officer
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/correspondence/2020/12/coronavirus-COVID-19-shielding-letters/documents/chief-medical-officer---march-guidance-2022/chief-medical-officer---march-guidance-2022-english-version/chief-medical-officer---march-guidance-2022-english-version/govscot%3Adocument/Chief%2BMedical%2BOfficer%2B-%2BMarch%2BGuidance%2B2022%2B%2528English%2BVersion%2529.pdf>



- **Commentary:** CMO sends letter to those on the Highest Risk List to inform them of changes to COVID-19 restrictions.

businesses no longer required to ask for proof of vaccination (will be optional)

- from 21 March people will no longer be required to wear face coverings in public, businesses will no longer need to collect customer information for contact tracing, and rules pertaining to minimizing risk of transmission for those running businesses, services or places of worship will change to guidance only

- still advising people to use precautionary measures such as face coverings, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and to follow the advice around testing and isolation.

A review of the Highest Risk List is taking place. Changes may be forthcoming in relation to the positive effect of the vaccination programme and improvements in COVID-19 treatments.

People aged 12 and above who are immunosuppressed will be offered a second vaccine booster dose. Jabs will be available 24 weeks after the last booster.

Reminders of resources for support as outlined in January 2022 letter.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** No specific issues, however, language barriers may have prevented refugees and asylum seekers fully understanding the changes.

**Key event (date):** 6-Mar-22: Booster Jabs for at risk groups

- **Topic:** Vaccinations OR Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government and Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)

- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/news/spring-rollout-of-boosters-begins/>
- **Commentary:** Spring booster jabs will be offered to those aged 75 and over and people at highest risk of severe COVID- 19 disease from tomorrow (Monday).  
To protect these groups a spring booster dose will be offered at least 24 weeks after the last vaccine dose to:  
adults aged 75 years and over  
residents in care homes for older adults  
individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**17-Mar-22: Approval the use of Evusheld (tixagevimab/cilg avimab) for use on adults who cannot be vaccinated

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) AND UK Government
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/evus-held-approved-to-prevent-COVID-19-in-people-whose-immune-response-is-poor>
- **Commentary:** The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approve the use of Evusheld (tixagevimab/cilgavimab) for use on adults who are unlikely to mount an immune response from COVID- 19 vaccination or for whom vaccination is not recommended.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**5-Apr-22: NHS Lothian apologises for an "admin error" misassigning vulnerable groups

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** NHS Lothian
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-60996768>
- **Commentary:** Health bosses have apologised after parents of healthy children were sent vaccine invites saying their youngsters had an underlying health condition.
- NHS Lothian said there was an "admin error" in letters sent to some families in Midlothian and West Lothian.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

12-Apr-22: Letter regarding funding of COVID-19

**Key event (date):**therapeutics

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government (Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care to the Convener of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/health-social-care-and-sport-committee/correspondence/2022/20220412-letter-from-cab-sec-funding-of-future-covid-therapuetics.pdf>
- **Commentary:** Over 5000 individuals at very highest risk of adverse COVID-19 outcomes have been given COVID-19 treatments since late Dec 2021. Secretary of State for Health announced no increased funding for COVID-19 therapeutics for 2022-2023. A supply of COVID-19 therapeutics have been purchased by the UK Government and will remain available until supplies run out.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 27-Apr-22: Key Milestone: End of Highest Risk List announced, effective 31 May 2022

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.gov.scot/news/end-of-the-highest-risk-list/>
- **Commentary:** A team of specialist clinicians has deemed there is no longer an increased risk for most individuals on the Highest Risk List. CMO to write to those on the list to advise them of the change and direct them to ongoing support services. The Distance Aware Scheme and Wellbeing Support remain in effect.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**09-05-22 Chief Medical Officer – end of highest risk list Letter

- **Topic:** Communicating with individuals on Highest Risk List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20220721092009/http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-letters-to-the-high-risk-group/>
- **Commentary:** CMO sends letter to those on the Highest Risk List to inform them of the end of the High risk list starting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

This is after a careful review of the scientific evidence that's emerged over the last two years. It's also because the vaccination programme has significantly reduced the risk for the majority of people on the list, and new medicines are now available to treat COVID-19. I'm very pleased we're now in a position where I can confidently say the Highest Risk List is

no longer needed, which is a positive step forward after a very difficult two years.

We've published a summary of the key scientific evidence behind the decisions we've taken relevant to people on the Highest Risk List, including the decision to end the list. This includes strong evidence that a full course of vaccines and boosters offers a high level of protection to the vast majority of people on the Highest Risk List. You can read this

Evidence Review at [www.gov.scot/highest-risk-evidence](http://www.gov.scot/highest-risk-evidence)

People who remain at higher risk The NHS can still identify people who remain at higher risk from COVID- 19 due to their health conditions or treatments. These are mainly people who are severely immunosuppressed. People in this group aged 12 years or over may have access to things like: a spring booster dose new antiviral and antibody treatments if they fall ill with COVID-19 are likely to be eligible for either of these, the NHS should already have sent you a letter to let you know.

Testing and protection reassurances are given

Support and advice You can read about wellbeing support and advice that is still available at the end of this letter. This includes the free British Red Cross Connecting with You service, which provides ongoing loneliness and isolation support to people who need it.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**14-Jun-22: Highest Risk List letters published

- **Topic:** Communicating with individuals on Highest Risk List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-COVID-19-letters-to-the-high-risk-group/>

- **Commentary:** Scottish Government publishes past communications sent to those on the Highest Risk List, including alternative formats and translations.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** CMO's letters are published in a range of different languages.

**Key event (date):**14-Jun-22: Meeting of Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Scottish Parliament (Health, Social Care and Sport Committee)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/api/sitecore/CustomMedia/OfficialReport?meetingId=13827>
- **Commentary:** Richard Mede of Carers Scotland describes to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee how many unpaid carers are still shielding despite the lifting of restrictions. He notes they are worried about the impact of Covid and the failure of local authority and other services to return to pre-pandemic levels. He further notes that many unpaid carers have failed to access services for themselves or those they care for, and have struggled to get appointments to discuss their own health concerns.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):**16-Jun-22: Auditor General's report on Scotland's financial response to COVID-19 published

- **Topic:** Shielding vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government, Auditor General

- **Relevant documents:** [https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr\\_220616\\_financial\\_response\\_to\\_covid.pdf](https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/uploads/docs/report/2022/nr_220616_financial_response_to_covid.pdf)
- **Commentary:** The Auditor General's report shows that there was a 16-day period between the announcement of the Food Fund for those on the Shielding List and when the funds became available. There was a 3-day period between fund availability and first payment made.
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** For people with limited resources, including refugees, any gaps in the provision of support are likely to have been very difficult to manage.

**Key event (date):** 13-Oct-22 Communication of public health information, response to 23 Sept. letter

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups OR Communicating with individuals on Highest Risk List
- **Main body/persons involved:** Scottish Government (Minister for Public Health Women's Health and Sport) to Convener, COVID-19 Recovery Committee (Scottish Parliament)
- **Relevant documents:** <https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/committees/covid19-recovery-committee/covid19communicationofpublichealthinformationscottishgovernmentresponse.pdf>
- **Commentary:** The Scottish Government responds to concerns raised by the COVID-19 Recovery Committee.
- Individuals on Highest Risk List have said their concerns regarding plans for the next phase of the pandemic and recovery have not been addressed. The Scottish Government responds that they recognize those at highest risk may find adjusting to the next phases difficult, and that they have continued to fund, promote, and pilot initiatives

that have been designed to provide reassurance and protection for those at higher risk, including the Distance Aware Scheme, The British Red Cross's Connecting with You service, and the Covid Sense Signage pilot.

The committee requests a review of the Covid Safety Signage Scheme pilot project. The Scottish Government responds that responses from an evaluation questionnaire done in September are being evaluated. The Covid Sense (marketing) campaign will be replaced with the 'Stay Well this Winter' campaign which will include messaging around safety behaviours for people to protect themselves and those at higher risk.

- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** N/A
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** --

**Key event (date):** 13-Dec-22:

Meeting of Health, Social Care and Sport Committee

- **Topic:** Provisions for vulnerable groups
- **Main body/persons involved:** The Scottish Parliament (Health, Social Care and Sport Committee)
- **Relevant documents:**  
<https://www.parliament.scot/api/sitecore/CustomMedia/OfficialReport?meetingId=14053>
- **Commentary:** Adam Stachura from Age Scotland remarks while discussing cultural appropriateness of social care, that food parcels for people who were shielding "were often far from culturally appropriate or suitable for certain diets, but the recipients really did not have any choice".
- **Was this event or decision likely to affect refugees and asylum seekers disproportionately?** Yes
- **Further explanation/supporting documents:** Refugees who received food parcels that were not culturally appropriate would have been faced with the dilemma of going hungry or going against their values.



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