Covid-19 in long-term care **UNTIL JUNE 2021 Examination COVID-19 information gathering Europe** Henk Nies, Elsbeth Zielman, Monique Bressers, Noëlle Sant Vilans, Centre of Expertise for Long-term Care in the Netherlands June 29, 2021 Over the past year, Vilans has mapped out the measures taken by the We saw in all countries, with the exception of the UK, that the Pfizer or weekly lateral flow tests. In case of a COVID-19 outbreak different protocols governments of eight countries. The aim was to learn from the measures in Moderna mRNA vaccines were administered to the older members of the are applied. these countries to better deal with the coronavirus and its consequences, population. in particular for clients and formal and informal carers in long-term care If the vaccination coverage among the nursing home residents in Denmark (LTC). Furthermore, the aim was to draw inspiration from mutual learning. exceeds 80%, staff can refrain from being tested regularly, if they themselves Vaccination policies In this fourth and hopefully last overview, we show how Belgium (especially are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic. Flanders), Denmark, Germany (especially North Rhine-Westphalia), In all countries, citizens are free to refuse to be vaccinated. On the other hand, France, Norway, the United Kingdom (especially England), Sweden and the In Germany, staff need to be tested by a regular rapid test every third business governments want to achieve as high as possible degree of vaccination among Netherlands have operated since March 2021. We also reflect on the past day in nursing homes and every second business day when they are working in the general population, in particular for healthcare workers (including LTC). period about the lessons learned for the future, the 'new normal' in LTC. ambulatory services. Furthermore, because of privacy reasons, people have the right to remain The measures taken before this period, are described in our earlier silent about whether they are vaccinated or not. The broader population is publications (Corona-update-March-2021.pdf (vilans.org)), (covid-19-in-In England, residents are tested every 28 days. For vaccinated residents in encouraged, rather than mandated, to get vaccinated. Belgium only a PCR test can be used to detect a possible infection. Antigen long-term-care.pdf (vilans.org)) testing can only be applied among those residents who are not vaccinated and The willingness to be vaccinated, both in the general population and in the LTC The current overview differs from the ones previously published. Firstly, who have COVID-19 symptoms. These tests are applied in case of a higher sector, differs between countries. In the Nordic countries, willingness among local prevalence, more contagious variants and to protect those who are not we have paid less attention to visitor restrictions, protective equipment, the general population is high, for instance nearly 90% in Norway. In particular, monitoring and the corona apps. In this overview we focus on vaccination vet immune. in deprived areas and among minority groups, vaccine hesitancy is relatively status and strategies, current testing policies, the impact on visitor high. The same holds for the Netherlands, where willingness is over 95% In case of a discovery of a COVID-19 infection, all countries follow a strict arrangements, preparations for a possible 'fourth wave' and financial among the 55+ age groups, around 90% among those 40-54 years old, and 75% compensation. We have set up the timelines beginning with the most recent protocol to of testing. For instance, if in a Danish nursing home an infection among the population younger than 40 years of age. measures and then moving backwards. among a resident or an employee is detected, all residents, if possible, should be tested within a day after contact with someone infected with COVID-19. Locally tailored approaches are seen in various countries (for instance The overviews have been commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare The test is repeated for the residents who are not fully vaccinated, every 7th Denmark, The Netherlands) to reach those who are less willing to be day, until there are no more instances of COVID-19 at the institution. The and Sports in the Netherlands, to whom we provided detailed reports every vaccinated. Strategies may include better and more accessible information, three weeks until April 2021. The overviews serve as inspiration and help to Netherlands is reluctant in testing residents. They are only tested in the event vaccination rollout through services that people trust (e.g., general gain insight into long-term care policies in other European countries. of complaints or contact with a potentially infected person. practitioners, their local communities), low threshold vaccination (no advanced booking needed) and going to these particular neighbourhoods We collected data by reviewing key publications and websites in the various Visiting arrangements for campaigning and actual vaccination (in the Netherlands by deploying countries as well as by reviewing publications on international forums, vaccination buses to these areas). such as the International Long-term Care Policy Network. Furthermore, At the moment of writing this report, with the exception of Denmark, none numerous experts in the countries concerned, have assisted us in collecting Professionals' organisations, care providers and authorities have all called of the countries is back to the 'old' normal. There are restrictions for visiting additional information and providing additional insights for a deeper upon their members or healthcare workers in general to get vaccinated. But residents. In the Netherlands there are no ristrictions on a number of visitors understanding. in all countries, staff of health and LTC services have in principle the right to in nursing homes since June 26th, like in the rest of society. Under condition refuse. Employers are not allowed to inquire about the employee's vaccination you can maintain 1,5 meter distance. It appears that measures are being more For this final publication, we organised an invitational conference with and more situationally applied. The Dutch government allows quite some status. However, for instance in Denmark, staff can avoid compulsory testing these experts in which we reflected on the period gone by and the lessons twice a week, by informing their employer about their vaccination status. A discretionary freedom of decision making to the various service providers, for the next phase in LTC. We expect COVID-19 will be a persistent matter similar situation can be seen in France. If not vaccinated, staff working with provided they can justify their decisions by professional considerations and in of concern. The insights we obtained from this invitational conference have consultation with residents and their family. older people must be tested quite frequently. been incorporated in the paragraph 'The challenges of getting back to the In decentralised countries such as the Nordics, the official restrictions may Therefore, those who refuse cannot be dismissed. However, there is some vary between municipalities and between nursing homes. But here also, public opinion and policy debate for mandatory vaccination for certain staff In all participating countries the vaccination policies in LTC and among the logistics require customisation. Norway still applies a number of restrictions groups. There are some instances in the Netherlands of healthcare workers older population have been effective in reducing the number of casualties from negatively influencing their clients in LTC, thereby, counteracting professional and facilitations for visitors. The severity of the restrictions varies between COVID-19. The vaccination strategies have differed slightly between countries, standards and their organisation's policy. In those cases, employers seek to municipalities and nursing homes. but in all of them, the oldest and most frail were highest on the vaccination dismiss these care workers. The discussion is ongoing whether there should priority list. In all countries, the majority of this segment of the population live By the end of May 2021, the ban on visits to nursing homes ceased in be a 'moral obligation' to get vaccinated, like the Hepatitis B vaccination. In at home. The degree, design and policies on residential care vary between England, the government ran a consultation on making vaccination a condition Sweden, referring to the improved epidemiological situation, the increasing the countries. In the Nordic states, much LTC for younger, middle aged and of deployment in older adult care homes and is currently analysing the vaccination coverage and the continued high compliance with other rules and young-old people is provided at home. Statistics for LTC are therefore hard to feedback. However, on 16 June 2021 the government published that they will recommendations. Thereby, people's constitutional rights were to be ensured, compare, as are vaccination rates. in order to avoid an increased risk of physical and mental illness. At present, launch a further public consultation in due course on whether or not to make a Covid-19 vaccination a condition of deployment in health and care settings. no negative test is required. Other rules and recommendations still apply. Also Vaccination status in Sweden, there are considerable differences between municipalities, however In France, professionals working with vulnerable older people are reminded the previous situation has been restored. Still, great caution is recommended. The speed of vaccination differed greatly among the various countries. For of the ethical aspects of getting vaccinated. It is a personal responsibility for instance, in Norway, 92% of the entire group of people 85 years or older had their own interest, but also to protect older people and colleagues. Everything In England, every care home resident can nominate up to five named visitors been vaccinated by June 2021 with one, 88 % of them with two doses. For is done to allow them to have quick and easy access to vaccination. It is to enter the care home for regular visits, to a maximum of no more than two the age group 75-84 years old, these percentages were even higher. As of communicated that without a high degree of vaccination among professionals, visitors at a time or on one day. Residents with higher care needs can choose early June, 97% had been vaccinated one of whom 94% with two doses. When return to normal life will not be possible. The French Minister of health and to nominate an essential care giver who may visit the home to attend to considering that not all older people are able to be vaccinated due to poor solidarity strongly advocated to make the vaccination for employees of nursing essential care needs. homes compulsory. health and the fact that some may refuse, one can say that the vaccination In Belgium, visitors are required to register before visiting. They are required strategy for frail older people was completed as of early June. There have also been fierce debates about the safety of the vaccines, in to adhere to the general measures. If they refuse to do so, admittance can be particular the side effects of the vector vaccines from Astra Zeneca and In Denmark, nursing homes, residents with comprehensive domestic help at denied. Four very close 'hugging' contacts are allowed. These contacts can home and people over 85 years old were vaccinated, with 95% having received Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). The mRNA vaccines have been deployed in all change after a period of two weeks. Other social contacts are not limited but the first dose and 93% the second dose by the middle of June 2021. In the countries among the oldest and most vulnerable populations. The debates need to use face masks. It is a visitors need to respect social distancing taking group of people over 65 years old, 96% were vaccinated with the first dose and about the side-effects have led several governments to decide not use the into account the available space. 88% with the second dose. vector vaccines anymore among younger populations. This has impacted the speed of vaccination of staff in LTC as well. In France, visitors are welcome again in the resident's room but by The vaccination rate of people living in LTC or receiving home care in Sweden appointment (to avoid rush hours). Masks are still required, just like social Since vaccination proves to significantly reduce the number of COVID-19 cases, distancing. New residents are admitted, even if they are not vaccinated. The is similar, with 94% having received at least one dose, 89% being fully there is a debate on whether to allow greater freedom to people who have advice is to vaccinate them as soon as possible. Visitors of French nursing been vaccinated by means of a vaccine passport. This may encourage people homes must have a negative test certificate, be vaccinated or take a rapid test. Of the oldest among the population (85+) in Belgium, approximately 88% has to get vaccinated, although this is not used as an official motive for introducing Strict rules are put in place per country for visitors from outside Europe. been vaccinated, of whom 77% has received had a second dose. For the 75+ population, these figures are 91% and 78%, and for those 65 years and over, Denmark is an exception. In most nursing homes things have returned to they are 92% and 70%. \* normal with open access for relatives, volunteers and with the resumption of **Testing policies** most activities By the middle of April 2021, 98% of the residents in French nursing homes had There are significant differences in testing policies between the countries as been vaccinated at least once and a little more than 50% of the employees. a precondition for visiting clients in LTC. In Norway and the Netherlands, no tests are required. In England, visitors of care homes must be tested using At the time of publication (20 June 2021) around 90% of the oldest population rapid lateral flow tests on the day of the visit. Testing on-site at the care home has been fully vaccinated in the Netherlands. For people 65-80 years old, the is preferred, but alternatives and self-testing are also allowed. In Denmark, percentage is 91% and among the oldest segment (90+), around 83% is fully visitors are offered antigen testing. The 'Corona-pass' is required for entering vaccinated. With the exception of a few municipalities (mostly situated in what is called the Bible Belt where religious objections exist among a part of the Protestant community and a few urban municipalities), more than 85% of the In Germany, there are strict rules surrounding the testing of visitors. However, 65+ population segment shows as being vaccinated. The population in nursing with the decline in infections and increase in vaccines administered, there is homes is nearly fully vaccinated and the number of new infections was zero at discussion about dropping this testing policy. the time of writing this report. The virus has nearly disappeared among these Staff in England must follow a regular testing cycle of weekly PCR and twice-Financial compensation by the government Compensation to organisations for loss of revenue and additional expenses Some governments, for instance Norway and England, prepare for minor suffered from lack of oversight of this sector, lack of data, lack of evidence and for care professionals for their hardship during the COVID-19 crisis outbreaks to be expected in the winter. According to British experts, in the of effective measures, shortages of staff and lack of reserves. The voice of differ across countries. In Norway, the authorities have given extra grants to late summer to autumn a smaller additional wave is likely to occur, unless the sector, the people working in the sector and clients and family carers, the municipalities to cover extra expenses. However, it is up to the individual restrictions are kept in place. was poorly heard. There was also no clear sight of what happened outside municipality to decide how the funds will be used. Therefore, it varies whether the professional LTC sector: how people living independently and their often and how much extra resources nursing homes have received. In Sweden, an overall assessment of the current situation and the probable unpaid caregivers coped with the complex situation. These weaknesses are challenges for the future, when a 'new normal' needs to be invented and to future situation, will determine what will happen after the summer. The factors that the Swedish Public Health Agency considers in the overall assessment In England, the Government has set up a COVID-19 care home support deal with the yet still existing virus. are the spread of infection, the burden on care due to COVID-19, vaccination package, which includes additional funding to local authorities for meeting pressures on public services such as social care and via the NHS, specifically coverage and how stable the situation is. On the other hand, the pandemic has also demonstrated strengths, that can to support safe and timely discharge from hospitals into care homes and to be a guide towards the direction the LTC sector can develop. The resilience support providers through a social care infection control fund. The regional In general, the infection and death rates are decreasing in all countries, it of the services, workers, clients and informal carers, as well as governments health agencies have compensated LTC providers through various types of is expected that most restrictions can be lifted during or after the summer on all levels, was also astonishing. After setting initial generic and or harsh compensation packages, differing per region. They can include a bonus per (from August onwards), and that it will not be necessary to introduce them measures in all countries, customisation took over as a principle, quickly using again. In contrast to the first outbreak, it is anticipated that the health and LTC employee, a contribution towards pension and additional funding to attract new existing evidence and apparently good practices. The sector demonstrated a staff by raising salaries. Further, they are compensated for loss of income due services will be capable of handling these. The authorities will introduce strict fast-learning capacity as well. It has learned a lot about balancing hygiene and to a lower occupancy rate from March to July, as well as additional expenses measures again if necessary. In the Netherlands, it has been announced that safety measures, good healthcare, with quality of life and wellbeing. and the purchase of face masks. nearly all measures in society will be lifted by 26 June 2021. Also, it is expected Capabilities for large scale vaccination, improved high quality testing facilities, that the measures in LTC will be lifted at various points in time. In Sweden, the national government has allocated substantial budgets during emergency plans for containing contamination (also for other infections), the pandemic for municipalities and regions to compensate for additional It remains uncertain to some extent how predictable the roadmaps will be. competencies for scaling up services, building reserve capacity of staff, means expenses. For municipalities, these budgets were meant to maintain socially As recently seen in the UK, where the Delta variant is mushrooming, new and buildings, collaborative networks, and involving researchers in rapid data important functions, such as school and LTC. For the regions, budgets were unpreceded situations may occur. All countries are aware of the risks of the collection and making sense of often incomplete evidence to improve practice made available for COVID-19 related care and deferred care. Delta variant and are following its spread cautiously. In Belgium and the UK have been demonstrated in this period of crisis. The big issue will be how vaccine booster programs are considered or even planned. sustainable the learnings will be and whether there is sufficient ground for In France, care providers have been compensated for loss of income due further improvement. As of yet, we also need to say, there is still much room Preparations are being made in case of outbreaks. In that case, even if LTC to fewer residents. Furthermore, they extra costs incurred between were residents or frail people are vaccinated, this is not a guarantee for lifting all measures at any time. For instance, in Denmark, in case of an SARS-CoV-2 Next to the – more or less operational issues – the pandemic has also brought infection of someone working in a particular LTC venue, all staff need to be Dutch healthcare and long-term care providers are compensated through a a lot of ethical dilemmas that are inherent to LTC for frail and vulnerable variety of measures, for extra expenses and loss of income because of low tested even if they have been fully vaccinated. Testing is repeated for those who people. The balance between surviving as such and living a life with as much occupancy rates. For German healthcare organisations there is an emergency are not fully vaccinated, until there are no more infections in the particular quality as possible is key. But also issues around mandatory vaccination, assistance package to help them defray all costs incurred for corona care. privacy and balancing measures in society and for residents and clients of venue. And when there is a serious COVID-19 outbreak nearby, measures can be taken to restrict access in the nursing home. On the other hand, building LTC services are a challenge to the future. The question is also to what extent on earlier experiences a number of rights have been formulated in Denmark. In the Netherlands, all those who work in healthcare have received a health and survival should dominate at the cost of overburdened carers, both bonus of €1000 for the year 2020. The bonus for 2021 (€250+) was a topic Visits from close relatives to a critically ill person cannot be declined, as are paid and unpaid. It is also an issue to what extent the health and LTC system can afford the expenses that are involved in order to be prepared for the future. of fierce political and societal debate. This will be for those who delivered visits to someone with cognitive impairment to a degree that the person is It appeared that compensations for the sector and for care workers, as well as an extraordinary effort and is meant for those care staff with an income of missing the ability to understand and accept the purpose of the restrictions for those who lost income due to taking responsibilities as informal carers are €74,000 or less annually. The bonusses also apply to those with a personal and, therefore, has a special need to be visited. Also visits from people legally budget. representing the person are always permitted. vital to provide good quality in LTC. But are we, in the long run, able to bring up this solidarity in society? Technology may prove to be supportive but will not In Norway, there hasn't be any national compensation that is comparable to Infection prevention in LTC appears to become common and will be strictly be the only solution. Many people are still not familiar with digitalisation and applied in the near future. Herd immunity, mainly achieved by extensive the care bonus that Dutch care workers received. This is not self-evident, as technology cannot solve everything. nurses working in the municipalities (nursing homes and district nursing/ vaccination, alongside testing and new variant monitoring, are seen as key in preventing future outbreaks. And governments, care providers and populations home care) and hospitals have been striking for higher salaries. This spring, We hope that monitoring LTC in an international network will also contribute the conflict has been heightened because of the pressures nursing staff in are better prepared and plans have been developed. The Flemish government's to developing a sustainable, accessible and high quality LTC sector, not only for mobile teams that provide infection prevention training in facilities are still older people, but also for people with disabilities, who are often overlooked. health and care services have experienced. Nevertheless, some municipalities and nursing homes have provided corona compensation to their employees. active. In the Netherlands, Vilans and umbrella organisations have developed a Our collaboration with governments, research and practice will prove to be scenario for scaling up and scaling down measures and to prepare for a fourth useful in addressing the challenges of the future, with and without COVID-19. In the UK, the various countries have offered health and social care staff We would like to thank all those who were involved in depicting how the eight different bonusses or other forms of recognition for their contribution during countries dealt with the pandemic. Hopefully this may be a fertile ground for future collaboration as well. the COVID-19 period. In Belgium, a one-off supplement to the 2020 year-end Final reflections grant has been awarded as an allowance for the extra work during COVID-19. There is no personal supplement for staff members in Germany. All states and parties are making up their minds and are evaluating what Looking back at the past turbulent period, we see a pattern across the various has been done and what needs to be done. We would like to end with ten countries involved in our monitoring activities. The pandemic has shown the There are various forms of compensation deployed for staff in LTC in France. recommendations from France. pre-existing weaknesses and strengths of the health, social and LTC systems: Salaries have been raised according to the programme, Ségur de la Santé. the governance, the services, the care workers, and the clients and their The salary of staff of nursing homes has been increased as of 1 September relatives. From looking back, we can learn about the future and what LTC 2021 and COVID-19 bonusses have been awarded up to € 1,500 per employee, 10 Tips from France needs in the next phase of the pandemic, but also for the period thereafter. differing per region. In all countries, we saw LTC services initially being under-resourced, 1. fight against the virus without forgetting the wishes of the individual Furthermore, expenses for testing and vaccination are covered by the central compared to hospitals and more acute health care services in terms of 2. most important is the information, expression and free choice of the governments in the various countries. Also, additional infection control in protective materials, funding, staff, testing facilities, reserve capacities, residents as much as possible health services, and in the society (e.g. restaurants) are funded. buildings and so on. The focus of society and health care on older people and 3. preserve contact and trust with the families people with disabilities was secondary. However, the picture has changed 4. reduce to the maximum - constraints and restrictions of freedom The fourth wave during the pandemic. LTC services became better integrated in local and 5. take into account the specificities of people with neurocognitive disorders regional networks, they received full attention from national and local 6. support the dying, honour the dead, take care of the mourners As of now, it is unclear whether a fourth, or in some countries such as authorities. It became clear that strict measures for hygiene protection, 7. support the colleagues, take care of the team England, a third wave will take place. Unforeseen mutations are to be containment and vaccination are required. But it was also clear that what 8. make decisions based on knowledge, and with consensus expected, as are uplifts in autumn and winter because of seasonal influences happens in – in particular – nursing homes mirrors what happens in society. 9. take responsibility in an anxious and uncertain context on the spread of the virus. Moreover, it is unclear how long the vaccines There is a cultural factor involved in containing the virus in a narrow sense and 10. preserve a space for thought and pay attention to the ethical question at the will provide protection and how many of the population will in the end, be taking care of frail and vulnerable people on a broad societal scale. vaccinated. Therefore, scenarios differ. During the pandemic, measures and policies to tackle the challenges of LTC **TIMELINE** Timeline highlights on the following themes: Visiting arrangements, Testing policy, Important moments and (11) VISITING ARRANGEMENTS Vaccination. The timeline runs from November 2020 to June 2021. The timeline can be read both horizontally and TESTING POLICIES vertically. Horizontal shows the developments per month for the eight countries, vertical shows the developments per country per month. i) IMPORTANT MOMENTS **VACCINATION ○ June 2021 GERMANY BELGIUM DENMARK NETHERLANDS** UNITED KINGDOM **SWEDEN FRANCE** NORWAY (North-Rhine Westphalia) (Flanders) (England) **May 2021 GERMANY** BELGIUM DENMARK **NETHERLANDS** UNITED KINGDOM **SWEDEN FRANCE** NORWAY (North-Rhine Westphalia) (Flanders) (England) 31th The possibility for One out of two adults municipalities to vaccinated Minimum 87% of 65+ request the Public in the Netherlands Health Agency to are vaccinated with at temporarily ban visits least one dose. This to nursing homes amounts to around 2.9 ceased. million 65+. There is a final round 17th (veegronde) for new people in nursing Care home residents homes. will be able to nominate up to 5 12th visitors for regular In the open air, visits into the home. outside of the facility's premises, it is permitted for a limited number of people to congregate, at a safe distance, in keeping with what applies to any citizen, and what is stimulated in the national guidelines. **○ April 2021 GERMANY** BELGIUM **DENMARK NETHERLANDS SWEDEN** FRANCE NORWAY UNITED KINGDOM (North-Rhine Westphalia) (Flanders) (England) Named visitors

should be tested using rapid LFTs on the day of every

Each care home

indoor visits.

UNITED KINGDOM

8th

UNITED KINGDOM

Government published

a plan for step-by-step

relaxation after the

lockdown

UNITED KINGDOM

11th

plan.

UNITED KINGDOM

30th

Priority groups for

**England begins** 

UNITED KINGDOM

Vaccination delivery

Framework for vaccination centres

**SWEDEN** 

Pandemic Law

**SWEDEN** 

27th

The first vaccination in

a nursing home.

There are <u>new</u> <u>contamination</u> <u>prevention rules</u>.

**SWEDEN** 

**FRANCE** 

NORWAY

NORWAY

health.

NORWAY

84% of the nursing

home residents had

been vaccinated with two

doses, and 7% had been

vaccinated with one dose

home residents cannot

be vaccinated due to poor

(Pfizer). Some of the nursing

It is voluntary to take the vaccine.

Also for healthcare workers. It

is not allowed to fire employees

Employees in the health and care

services do not lose their jobs if

they don't want to be vaccinated.

Association and The Norwegian

recommended to their members

vaccine. There are few people

who criticize the vaccine have

NORWAY

**NORWAY** 

Visitors are not tested and do

not need to show a negative

test before the visit.

NORWAY

in Norway who will not take the

COVID-19 vaccine, but individuals

been given good access to speak out in the media and have also been given access to the health authorities to promote and discuss their views.

The Norwegian Nurses

Medical Association have

that they should take the

that do not want the vaccine.

**FRANCE** 

April 2021.

**FRANCE** 

Professionals working with

vulnerable elderly people

are reminded of the ethical

issue of getting vaccinated.

This civic act is their

personal responsibility,

in their own interest, but

also in order to protect

elderly people and their

colleagues. Everything is

quick and easy access

to vaccination. Without

a mass vaccination of

will not be possible.

**FRANCE** 

regularly.

**FRANCE** 

Visitors must have a

a rapid test. Visitors

quarantine.

negative test certificate

or be vaccinated or take

from outside Europe only

**FRANCE** 

admitted after 7 days of

If not vaccinated, staff

must be tested very

working with the elderly

professionals, a 'return to

normal' in establishments

done to allow them to have

Most residents vaccinated

[1 or 2 vaccinations] and

70% of employees by 16

**FRANCE** 

**FRANCE** 

27th

The first persons have

been vaccinated, a

and a cardiologist.

Launch CrisOrga, a crisis management

78-year-old woman

18th

The first 75+ living at home is vaccinated.

Care home residents

will be allowed one

regular visitor.

(England)

resident can name

up to 2 people who

can come for regular

**SWEDEN** 

**SWEDEN** 

There is a **new** 

**FRANCE** 

13th

published.

**FRANCE** 

Recommendations for

in elderly homes were

NORWAY

Because the elderly have been vaccinated

restrictions for youth

there are less

and students.

15th

All nursing home

residents and all

vaccinated.

elderly persons over

the age of 85 have been

Scenarios have been

variant prevails / black

control / British

scenario)

NORWAY

NORWAY

27th

old.

First Norwegian

vaccinated, 67 years

a new visiting policy and adaptation of life

NORWAY

84% of the nursing

home residents had

been vaccinated with two doses, and 7% had been vaccinated with one dose (Pfizer)

visit.

The National Board of Health has updated the infection prevention recommendations. It is especially important to avoid being together with many people.

Rounded the first million vaccinations

12th

DENMARK

March 2021

(North-Rhine Westphalia)

○ February 2021

A new testing policy

in which long-term

care organisations

rapid tests.

8th

groups

OJanuary 2021

O December 2020

26th

Boxing Day: First

December

The policy is determined by the organisation based on a number of conditions and takes into account

context

O November 2020

**BELGIUM** 

Due to limited stock, rapid tests in residential care centres can only be used with symptomatic residents - for negative results, a PCR test.

19th

all visitors.

every 7 days.

From November 11th:

Be economical with testing. Only test if you have specific COVID-19 symptoms and if you are in the high-risk groups, are working with high-risk groups, have been in contact with a person who has tested positive, or for a number of other reasons. The intention is not to test

symptom during the winter months.

**VACCINATION STRATEGY** 

**GERMANY** 

Vaccination Rate: as of 15

June 2021 945.674 doses

had been administered

in Germany. 22,967,526

general population) are

Overall, 40,707,016 people

people (27.6% of the

now fully vaccinated.

(48.9%) have received

at least one dose of the

vaccine

GERMANY

In long-term care, the

willingness to be vaccinated

is very high, this means that

about policies if people do not

there is no discussion yet

want to be vaccinated.

**GERMANY** 

GERMANY

**GERMANY** 

For now, there are still

strict rules surrounding

and staff. However, with

the decline in infections

and increase in vaccines

administered, there

is discussion about

dropping this testing

the testing of clients

For now, there are still

strict rules surrounding

However, with the decline

in infections and increase

in vaccines administered,

there is discussion about

dropping this testing policy.

the testing of visitors.

**TESTING POLICY** 

**Current vaccination rate** 

Vaccination rate: 50% of

adults are at least partially

DENMARK

Current vaccination rate:

1st of June (sst.dk) with

expected vaccinations.

Vaccination willingness

Denmark, 92 percent of

all people over 64 have

now been vaccinated or

are in the process of being vaccinated. Read more

The health authorities have

made direct contact with

local networks in areas

with lower coverage and

local solutions. These

are for example making

and booking vaccination

book an appointment.

The possibility of mandatory vaccination

**DENMARK** 

In Denmark it is not

possible to force people

to get the vaccine. There

is no requirement for a

mandatory vaccination

long-term care. There

is just a requirement for compulsory COVID-19

to be able to work in

testing.

Policy on visiting relatives in nursing homes

DENMARK

Visitors to nursing homes

are offered antigen tests.

admitted to the hospital.

need to have the 'Corona-

pass' to enter most places.

Otherwise it is only a

Mandatory testing for professionals and clients

Staff, working in the health and elder sector and

some parts of the social sector, should be tested

twice a week if they are not fully vaccinated. It

is essential to implement a systematic, regular

solution, which is easily accessible for the staff

to secure comprehensive support from the

Fully vaccinated staff can refrain from being

tested regularly. It applies also to the staff

working in nursing homes, assisted living

facilities, respite care and social institutions etc.

and in hospitals and the home care sector. Un-

vaccinated staff should still be tested regularly.

Fully vaccinated people should still follow the

guidelines on self-isolation and testing if they

In case of a discovery of a COVID-19 infection among a resident or an employee, all residents, if possible, should be tested within a day after contact with someone infected with COVID-19. The test is repeated for the residents who are not fully vaccinated, every 7th day, until there are no more instances of COVID-19 at the institution.

Personnel, including temporary staff and cleaning staff etc. have to get tested even if they have no knowledge of being in contact with the person concerned and are fully vaccinated. The test must be taken as quickly as possible. Preferably within a day after they have received information, they must get tested. The test must be repeated every 7th day for the personnel who are not fully vaccinated until there are no more outbreaks at the institution. It is a case of extra testing on the basis of caution, and the test does not require self-isolation for the staff member/s who can work while they wait on their test

DENMARK

At most nursing homes things

have returned to normal.

There is again open access

for relatives, volunteers and

activities etc. Where there is

an outbreak of COVID-19 at

a nursing home or there is a

comprehensive outbreak of

COVID-19 in a municipality,

has the authority to issue a

directive restricting access

to nursing homes. Until 15

April 2021, it was assured in

the Consolidation Act about

the accessibility of nursing

relative at any time should be

allowed to visit, but since 15

In the following situations

visits cannot be restricted:

• Visits from close relatives

• Close relatives visiting a

degree that the person

is missing the ability to

grown adult with cognitive

functional handicap, in the

understand and accept the

purpose of the restrictions,

and by that reason have a

special need to be visited.

• Visits from the person's

guardian, personal representative or lawyer. Rules on visiting: <u>For visitors</u>

[sst.dk] (20210526)

The development of policy for the autumn/winter

DENMARK

**NETHERLANDS** 

black

All the documentation and

Corona guidelines and code

all the plans are ready:

**NETHERLANDS** 

Care professionals received

a bonus of €1000 in 2020.

In 2021 there will also be

a bonus provided (250+-).

Read more

Financial compensation available for Long term care facilities

**NETHERLANDS** 

The authors gratefully acknowledge the valuable contribution to this report of all the experts and officials who were willing to share their expertise and experience.

Germany: Stefan Welbers, Dipl.-Pflegewirt (FH) Geschäftsführer Gute Hoffnung leben, Prof. Dr. Margareta Halek, Universität Witten/Herdecke, Sven Reuther, Städtische Seniorenheime Krefeld

This report is an overview of just the policies and regulations of seven European countries based on accessible official information sources. This means that this report is not a complete overview. You will find the most important elements of each country's approach in their fight against the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care. There is more to providing good and safe care,

UNITED KINGDOM

The Government has set

up a Covid-19 care home

support package, which

• 2 tranches of extra

on 19 March and a

funding to local

This comprises:

includes additional funding.

authorities – £1.6 billion

further £1.6 billion on 18

April – to support them

public services (including

supporting local market

for social care provision),

along with £1.3 billion via

the NHS specifically to

support safe and timely

into care;

discharge from hospitals

• an additional £600 million

to support providers through a new adult

social care infection

control fund.

<u>Publications</u> and <u>News</u>

in meeting pressures

across the range of

DENMARK

April, the rules are regrettably

homes, that the closest

the agency for patient security

NETHERLANDS

from 10 June:

Visiting arrangements

Residents in nursing

homes may receive as

many visitors as people

at home (with 80% of

the residents being

vaccinated).

UNITED KINGDOM

Since May 17th, every care home

resident can nominate up to

5 named visitors who will be

able to enter the care home for

regular visits (and will be able

to visit together or separately

as preferred). Residents with

higher care needs can choose to

nominate an essential care giver

who may visit the home to attend

to essential care needs. The 5

named visitors may include an

essential care giver (where they

have one) but excludes babies

and preschool-aged children

(as long as this does not breach

national restrictions on indoor

gatherings). To reduce the risk

of infection residents can have

or over the course of one day (essential caregivers are exempt

from this daily limit). Source

There is no suggestion this is

a new normal and there is an

expectation all restrictions will

be lifted at some point in the

UNITED KINGDOM

The government has

England. Read more

published a roadmap out

of the current lockdown for

However, experts are now

warning about a possible

late summer to autumn"

later in the year, unless

"smaller third wave which

is most likely to occur in the

planned lockdown relaxation

measures are revisited by

restrictions kept in place

beyond 21 June 2021.

Read more

the Government, with some

UNITED KINGDOM

In April 2021 the English

Government announced

that "we are not planning to

pay £500 bonuses but are

exploring ways to improve recognition of health and

social care staff". NHS staff

**SWEDEN** 

In total, the government has

2020 for the municipalities and

the regions' additional costs as

The Government has proposed

government subsidies, total

outbreak of COVIDd-19. The

additional amounts totalling

SEK 21 billion for 2020 have

been made to strengthen the

municipal sector's ability to

maintain socially important

adopted by the Riksdag.

functions such as schools and

care. The proposals have been

SEK 26 billion by 2020. Of

these, SEK 5 billion was

announced before the

proposed SEK 20 billion in

a result of COVID-19.

an increase in general

are to receive a 1% pay

increase in 2021-2022.

**SWEDEN** 

Plan for downscaling of

restrictions. Read more

The factors that the

Swedish Public Health

Agency considers in the

overall assessment are

the spread of infection,

the burden on care due

to COVID-19, vaccination

coverage and how stable

Also resources are being

spent on making sure rest,

support and recuperation

is available to health care

the development is.

personnel.

**SWEDEN** 

**FRANCE** 

By the end of August,

authorities expect 35

million adults to be fully

is uncertainty about the

development of variants.

At the moment there is

extra attention for the

Delta variant, the number

of infections is expected to

increase weekly. Should a

new wave break out, the

plans are expected to be

ready, as was the case for

the third wave.

**FRANCE** 

per month.

**FRANCE** 

Ile-de-France:

employee

January 1, 2020

of 1 January 2020

Staff

The regional health agencies (Agence

Regionale de Santé, ARS) have

provided financial benefits to care

by region. Below is an example of

• COVID Bonus: Up to €1,500 per

• Old age premium (La prime grand

âge) for care staff in the public

• A territorial attractiveness bonus

for nurses and care staff in the

• Compensation for loss of income

due to fewer residents for the period 1 March to 10 July 2020

 Reimbursement for extra costs incurred between 1 March and 31 August 2020 and an amount for the purchase of face masks up to and including the end of 2020.

public sector: salary increase to

€940 gross on an annual basis as

sector: €118 gross per agent as of

homes. Please note, these fees vary

the reimbursements from the ARS of

Salaries of healthcare

workers in general have

through the Ségur de la

been increased nationwide

Santé program. The salary

of staff of nursing homes

has been increased as of 1 September 2021 to €183 net

vaccinated. However, there

NORWAY

The authorities expect that

there will not be a new

(demanding) wave in the

majority of the population

have been vaccinated with

Pfizer or Moderna in August.

in the winter. However, it is

anticipated that the health

might be a threat, but the

strict measures again if

expect that we have lifted (almost) all of the restrictions in Norway in August, and that it will not be necessary to introduce them again.

**NORWAY** 

There is no compensation

like a care bonus for

In May/June, nurses

municipalities (nursing

and hospitals have been striking, demanding higher salaries. The Norwegian Nursing Association (representing a large majority of Norwegian nurses) has negotiated with the municipalities and hospitals (state) for increasing wages for several years. This spring, the conflict has been heightened because of the pressures nurses working in health and care services

have experienced.

NORWAY

The authorities have

given extra grants to the

municipalities to cover extra

expenses. However, it it the

individual municipality that

decides how the funds will

be used. Therefore, it varies

whether and how much

extra resources nursing

homes have received.

homes and home nursing)

professionals.

working in the

Minor outbreaks are expected

services will have the capacity

to handle these. New mutations

Pfizer vaccine can be adjusted.

The authorities will introduce

necessary. However, the health

authorities and the government

autumn/winter because a vast

no more than 2 visitors at a time

In case of an outbreak of COVID-19:

the symptoms appear.

Residents:

Staff:

results.

develop COVID-19 symptoms regardless of when

DENMARK

The only time you will have

to be tested is when you are

recommendation but you will

direct contact with citizens

appointments or instances

where it is not necessary to

have established temporary

Policy debate over people who do not want to be vaccinated

is still very high in

DENMARK

administered, planned and

Vaccination calendar

**NETHERLANDS** 

Most of the residents in

nursing homes have been

vaccinated. From 19 May

there is a final round for

new people in nursing

homes. Read more

**NETHERLANDS** 

It is not an obligation to

get the vaccine. It could

be considered a moral

obligation, same as Hep

B. At present there is no

employers to register this

employee data. Read more

explicit legal basis for

**NETHERLANDS** 

No mandatory obligation.

It could happen that you

are assigned other tasks.

Focus lies on the residents

and not the professionals.

80% vaccinated means that

measures can be relaxed.

**NETHERLANDS** 

UNITED KINGDOM

(6 June 2021)

57.510.753.

• Second dose total:

Vaccination rate (England):

• First dose total: 33.800.107

23,710,646 (6 June 2021).

Total vaccinations given:

UNITED KINGDOM

There is a debate

on whether to allow

greater freedom to

people who have been

vaccinated through a

type of COVID-19 vaccine

certificate). This could

act as an incentive for

people to get vaccinated.

Currently, demonstration

required when travelling

of vaccination status is only

abroad. The Government is

still exploring this avenue

and is due to report by 21

UNITED KINGDOM

Mandatory vaccination in

long-term care settings is

under consideration. Recently,

the Government (England) ran

a consultation (which closed

on 26 May 2021) on making

vaccination a condition of

deployment in older adult

analysing the feedback.

UNITED KINGDOM

Visitors must be tested

using rapid lateral flow

tests. Test must be done on

the day of the visit. Testing

is preferable for insurance

UNITED KINGDOM

Staff and residents must

follow a regular testing

cycle (there are different

instance of an outbreak):

Weekly PCR and twice

Resident testing:

Every 28 days with PCR

In case of an outbreak:

Staff testing, Twice-weekly

PCR and daily LFT until 5 days of no positives

Resident testing: Twice-

weekly PCR and LFT on the

weekly LFT (one of the LFT on the same day as their

requirements in the

Staff testing:

on-site at the care home

purposes. However,

**NETHERLANDS** 

Testing of both

caregivers and

with a potentially

infected person.

residents in the event of

complaints or contact

alternative routes are

care homes and is currently

passport (COVID-19 status

**SWEDEN** 

Read more

**SWEDEN** 

**SWEDEN** 

There appears to be

some public opinion for

mandatory vaccination

for certain staff groups,

however it is a divisive

unlikely, given Sweden's

otherwise open approach

question and seems

to the pandemic.

**SWEDEN** 

On 31 May 2021,

the possibility for

municipalities to request

the Public Health Agency

to temporarily ban visits

to nursing homes came

to an end. The repeal

based on the improved

epidemiological situation,

the increasing vaccination

continued high compliance

of the regulation is

coverage and the

with other rules and

recommendations. The

people's constitutional

ban on visits also restricts

rights, which can lead to an

**SWEDEN** 

**SWEDEN** 

It differs considerably

from municipality to

municipality however

caution is universally

an abundance of

recommended.

**FRANCE** 

hoursl

reversed

possible.

Visitors are welcome

again in the room, by

appointment (to avoid rush

In case of three positive

in a nursing home: all

the measures are being

Masks are still necessary

Keeping distance stays.

New residents are

admitted, also non-

vaccinated: advice for

vaccination as soon as

tests of residents or HCP

NORWAY

We are not back to

and facilitations for

normal. There are still a

number of restrictions

visitors. The severity of

the restrictions varies

between municipalities

and nursing homes.

No negative test required, however other rules and

recommendations still

apply, such as staying at

home if symptoms appear.

increased risk of physical and mental illness.

Vaccination rate of people

living in LTC or receiving

home care (priority group

nr. 1 in Sweden) is 94% at

least one dose, 89% fully

here (elderly care is Phase.

vaccinated. Charts are

**BELGIUM** 

vaccinated.

**BELGIUM** 

**BELGIUM** 

**BELGIUM** 

The use of Ag rapid tests

for visitors is done under

the responsibility of and

in consultation with the

local medical authorities.

epidemiological situation.

Factors that may influence

The use is optional

and depends on the

a decision include:

prevalence:

immunity.

BELGIUM

For vaccinated

residents with

symptoms, only a

PCR test can be used

infection. An Ag rapid

test can only be used

symptomatic residents

(symptom duration of

maximum five days)

first vaccination.

**VISITING ARRANGEMENTS** 

BELGIUM

residents.

contacts).

time

location.

A FOURTH WAVE

**GERMANY** 

with this.

**GERMANY** 

**GERMANY** 

corona care.

There is no personal

supplement for staff

members, however, there

package for healthcare

is an emergency assistance

organisations that will help

defray all costs incurred for

Acknowledgement

United Kingdom: Emma Scale, Deanne Mitchell, Fiona Flowers, SCIE

France: Esther Hogenhout, Embassy of the Netherlands in France

Denmark: Sarah Skafte, David Vincent Nielsen, Nina Bruun, Rikke Hamfeldt (Aeldre Sagen)

especially when you look at the social or psychological impact of COVID-19 in long-term care.

Sweden: Richard Ilett, The Swedish Family Care Competence Centre, Birger Forsberg, Karolinska Institutet

Belgium: Lennert Noppe, Flamish Agency for Care & Health

Norway: Heidi Gautun, Oslo Metropolitan University

Netherlands: Ministery of Health, Welfare and Sports

Disclaimer

There are expectations of

a fourth wave in the fall,

but no national picture has

been formed of how to deal

Visits are allowed for all

Four close contacts (hug

• Without face mask

• Bi-weekly change

Other social contacts

• With surgical face mask

• Unlimited number and

• The number present at

• Visitors register when

entering the location,

disinfect their hands with

when moving through the

facility and sign an honour

agreement (optional). Visitors

who do not comply with the

agreement will be called to

account. If refused, the visitor

may be denied access to the

• Other restrictions are

regarding time.

BELGIUM

It is currently being

booster shot will be

delivered. This is being

looked at with the various

authorities. This jab will

following the same order

as the first (and second)

presumably be given

Infection prevention

infection prevention

fewer of them.

remains very important.

The Flemish government's

mobile teams that provide

training in facilities are still

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION BY THE GOVERNMENT

A care bonus for professionals

**DENMARK** 

**BELGIUM** 

There is a one-time

supplement to the 2020

allowance for the extra

year-end grant that is an

work during COVID-19. In

addition, the agreement

provides an increase in

wellness sectors.

BELGIUM

personnel resources for the

active. However, there are

dose.

investigated how a possible

not possible, for instance

alcohol gel, wear a face mask

the same time can only be

limited in accordance with the

precautionary measures such

as keeping distance and the

number of people that can be

present in a room at the same

unlimited exchange

The number of visitors is limited

**GERMANY** 

Visitors are allowed

specific regulations

to take the infection

rate in account and

regulations of the

the organisations have

follow the most current

Robert Koch Institute.

for residents, for

and for residents with

symptoms just after the

for non-vaccinated

to detect a possible

an increased (local)

• the circulation of more

contagious variants;

and staff who have not

(yet) been vaccinated or

have built up sufficient

to protect residents

In long-term care,

management may not

simply ask if someone has

been vaccinated. For many

appear in a medical record.

people, vaccination does

A resident may have one close contact (within 1.5m) and one social contact (on 1.5m) that may change every two weeks. A surgical mouth-nose mask must be worn by

**Preventive screening** of staff maximum once

**GERMANY** 

There is a guide for

visiting arrangements.

vaccination given to a

101-year-old woman.

**GERMANY** 

**GERMANY** 

focus more on using

A new prioritisation

**system** for the vaccination target

national testing strategy.

**GERMANY** 

**BELGIUM** 

(Flanders)

23rd

As of today, 1,010,181 people in Belgium have received their

first vaccine against

corresponds to 11% of

the adult population.

There is discussion

vaccination compulsory

among long-term care

over making

workers.

18th

New visiting policy

vaccination coverage

(at least 90% of the residents and at least

70% of staff), at the

earliest 10 days after

the second injection.

First vaccination for

Rapid testing for

**BELGIUM** 

**BELGIUM** 

First people have been vacinated.

elderly people

visitors is possible.

DENMARK

DENMARK

**Start vaccinations** 

December

Each resident may designate 3 visitors

**Update of guidelines** for preventing infections with the new mutant of the virus in longterm care settings.

**NETHERLANDS** 

DENMARK

26th

Planning for first phase vaccination is ready.

people with a disability.

for institutions

that comply with

**BELGIUM** 

COVID-19. That

**GERMANY** 

A comprehensive

dress rehearsal of

across the country.

The goal is for up to

100,000 people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 this day.

In nursing homes,

are fully vaccinated.

The same applies to

a large part of the staff at, among other places, hospitals,

nursing homes and

Updated guidelines

Covind-19 in social

health and welfare.

Retningslinjer for

DENMARK

life (National board of

håndtering af COVID-19 på socialområdet (socialstyrelsen.dk)

vaccination calendar

for dealing with

social institutions

most elderly residents

**NETHERLANDS** 

Most nursing home

residents have been

Vaccinated nursing

home residents may

Milestone of 1.000.000

injections achieved

Supplementary guidelines due to

British variant

**Start vaccination** for healthcare professionals in hospital.

**NETHERLANDS** 

**NETHERLANDS** 

receive 2 visitors.

**NETHERLANDS** 

vaccinated

the vaccination effort