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| **Welcome to the Patients Association'sWeekly News** |

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| Share | [Share](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=a147ee713a&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Call to fully fund social care gathers pace** |

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| The Patients Association, along with other members of the Health for Care coalition, has signed a [letter to the Prime Minister](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=e0c64195d0&e=b00dac9705)this week, calling on him to honour his pledge to fix social care ‘once and for all’. The letter also asks Mr Johnson to set out a timetable for reform that addresses both the immediate crisis and the need to put social care services on a sustainable footing. The letter says: “With the potential of a second wave of COVID-19, localised outbreaks, and the challenges of winter ahead, we are now gravely concerned about the ability of social care services to cope. “These difficulties will be compounded by the need to simultaneously provide care and rehabilitation to patients suffering from the long-term effects of COVID-19 and those who have not had COVID-19 but have experienced a decline in health as a result of shielding during lockdown.” The letter to the Prime Minister comes in the same week as the Care and Support Alliance launched a campaign to support a petition calling on the Government to properly fund social care. The Patients Association is also a member of the Care and Support Alliance, which is made up of charities representing people who use social care. The petition was set up by the parent of an autistic child who volunteers at the National Autistic Society and which has already attracted 2,500 signatures. The petition is still open and accepting signatures. If you’d like to learn more about this campaign and sign, click the button below. |

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| [**Sign the petition**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=cfc121afa3&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Exploring what would make you feel safe at your GP practice** |

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| There’s still time to take part in our survey into patients’ attitudes to returning to GP surgeries. We’re working with Assura, a company that builds and manages GP surgeries and primary care centres, to find out what would improve your sense of security. Assura will use the survey’s findings in the design and management of its buildings and we’ll share the results with primary care leaders. If you have 10 minutes, share your thoughts and you’ll help to make GP practices better and safer for all patients. |

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| [**Take the survey**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=a1fd6d5eef&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **Keep up to date on coronavirus guidance** |

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| While life is less restricted now than it was a few months ago, in some ways the rules and guidance around coronavirus have become more complicated. Many things are permitted only with certain conditions, and there is variation across the UK and even locally. Most recently, Wales became the last part of the UK to end its guidance that some people should ‘shield’ – for now, at least. Our coronavirus resources provide an up-to-date summary of what you need to know, and also link through to the full official guidance for all parts of the UK. Our page on [test and trace systems](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=a2ec87d48a&e=b00dac9705) tells you about how to get tested for COVID-19, and what to do if you have symptoms. This includes when you might need to self-isolate and how long for, and also what apps are available in different parts of the UK. Our article on [face masks](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=10231fd3e7&e=b00dac9705) provides the basics on how to wear them, and directs you to the rules for each nation on when you have to. Although ‘shielding’ guidance has mostly been paused, our article explains who counts as ‘[clinically extremely vulnerable](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=a23ed6b557&e=b00dac9705)’ and therefore might be advised to shield again in the future. General guidance, rules around ‘bubbles’ and other considerations are covered in our [advice, guidance and rules](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=76d3e5ad39&e=b00dac9705) article.  |

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| [**Read more**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=7544f77ff5&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **From the helpline** |

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| Duncan\* from East Kilbride rang our free helpline seeking advice about registering with a GP. Duncan had just received a letter telling him his GP practice had closed down. The letter signposted him to a new practice but when he attended the new surgery, he was told they had no record of him and didn’t have his medical records. They suggested that he needed to find out which practice his medical records had been sent to. Our adviser suggested that Duncan contact his local NHS Board, and explained the role of the NHS Board. We gave Duncan the contact details for his NHS Board and advised him to inform it of his situation so that he could register with a new GP practice. Our adviser advised Duncan to contact us again if he required additional advice or information. \* Name changed for privacy To share your experiences or seek advice, call our helpline team for free on 0800 3457115 between 9.30am and 5pm on weekdays or email helpline@patients-association.org.uk. See our website for more ways to get in touch. |

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| **What our team is reading this week** |

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| [**Britain’s Government axes Public Health England**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=960e71a5c8&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**UK Government seeks new healthcare data guardian**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=e01ba73c0e&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**Coronavirus antibodies tests 'put public at risk'**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=735f785808&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**Some European countries see coronavirus spikes of more than 70%**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=23524bda76&e=b00dac9705) |

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| [**Lockdown fears for Birmingham amid sharp rise in UK coronavirus cases**](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=7802e63d0f&e=b00dac9705) |

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| **About Us**Our vision is that health and social care will be delivered in a way that meets every person’s health and social care needs.Our mission is to give effect to the patient voice, to improve patient experience and support people to engage fully in their own care. Find out more about our values on our [website](https://patients-association.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9dd6577cf3f36af3c2f6682ed&id=24711e6349&e=b00dac9705).  |

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| *The Patients Association is a registered charity in England and Wales (1006733).  A company limited by guarantee.  Registered company in England and Wales (02620761)Registered address:  P Block, Northwick Park Hospital, The North West Hospitals NHS Trust, Watford Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3YJ* |

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