

Germany

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Impact of the pandemic on the German LTC system

- 7,118 Outbreaks in care homes / nursing homes (as of 6 Dec 21)
 - 168,805 infected individuals
 - 24,593 lost their lives
- No data on persons who live in their own homes
- IPC: Closure of LTC-facilities to visitors, also impacting delivery of health care from outside providers
- Social isolation, lack of exercise etc as undesired effects of IPC measures
- Increased stress for family carers and health care workers
- Residents mostly vaccinated, vaccination levels of staff vary
- Mandatory testing regimes in place

Key lessons

- Crisis preparedness (procedures, equipment [PPE], collaboration) is key
- Residents in care homes / nursing homes cannot effectively be shielded against high community prevalence
- Community care often „forgotten“:
Specific guidance, protection, vaccination required

Reforms

- Working conditions in LTC under scrutiny; pay increases
- Crisis preparedness now part of regulatory requirements and checks
- Under discussion: Mandatory vaccination for staff in residential aged care
- Proposed changes: Greater integration of health care on the local level