



Report: Difficulties accessing urgent dental care

Last month, a significant rise in enquiries about dentistry, including some alarming stories, prompted us to take a closer look at the difficulties people are having locally accessing urgent dental care. We carried out a focused piece of work and published a short report which you can [read here](#).

Although Covid-19 has put additional pressures and restrictions on dentistry, there is work to be done to make sure that people don't suffer dental pain and a deterioration in dental health.

Report: Carers in Covid-19



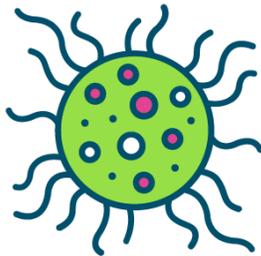
We published a report in September about the experiences of paid and unpaid carers during Covid-19, based on feedback gathered in a series of online focus groups. The sense of community that we found is something to be celebrated, but there are also some worries about digital exclusion and the over-reliance on unpaid carers. [Read the full report here](#).

Managing long-term health conditions during the pandemic

Our project to understand the experiences of people with long term health conditions during the pandemic is now underway. We have partnered with Gloucestershire NHS Hospitals Foundation Trust to reach people using outpatients' services and we are starting to gather their feedback. The project will run until 16 October.



If you have a long-term condition, you can make your experience count by getting in touch and sharing your feedback: [contact us](#).



Update: care during Covid-19 survey

We have now closed our 'Care during Covid-19' survey, which has been running since April. Thank you to everyone who took part. We are combining data from that survey with information we have collected via Healthwatch England and our feedback and signposting service. We will publish a report later in the autumn, showing peoples' experiences across the arc of the pandemic so far- highlighting common difficulties and what worked well.

Helping you find the care you need this winter

We've moved into the autumn and the weather is turning colder. This can make some health problems worse, especially for older people and those with ongoing health issues. Covid-19 is adding to the usual concerns about keeping well in the winter, and it has resulted in changes to how people can access local health and care services.



If you or anyone you know, needs help finding out about local health and social care services, you can call **Healthwatch Gloucestershire** on 0800 6525193 or visit the [information and advice page](#) of our website.



Our volunteers

Despite not being able to meet face-to-face, our volunteers have been busy in September. Our Readers' Panel has received great feedback for their work reviewing and improving public consultation documents for the next phase of Gloucestershire's Fit for the Future programme, so a huge thank you to them. We've run interview training for our volunteers who are now ready to play a key part in our public engagement and research projects, starting with managing long-term health conditions during the pandemic.

Despite the social distancing restrictions, there are plenty of ways that volunteers can be involved with our work and make a difference to health and social care in the county. If you would like to find out more, contact us – volunteering@healthwatchgloucestershire.co.uk.

Help make health and social care better for you and your community

Healthwatch Gloucestershire is the county's independent health and social care champion. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care.

Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers listen to what people like about local health and care services, and what could be improved.

These views are then shared with the decision-making organisations in the county, so together we can make a real difference.

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