

PHC services during the pandemic in Finland

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Impact of the COVID19 epidemic on PHC in Finland

- The pandemic has had effects on
 - Acute PHC services – two lanes in larger acute service units
 - Testing usually organized through PHC – uses PHC workforce
 - Hospitalized persons treated in health center hospitals – if appropriate
 - Each health center has one GP and one nurse appointed as the “infection physician” / “infection nurse”; the physician has legal rights to make decisions on individuals (the regional infection physicians are usually specialists in infectious diseases – they are consultants and monitor the situation)
 - At first, many patients cancelled prebooked appointments usually for monitoring of chronic diseases
 - Some group based activities have been temporarily cancelled
 - Waiting times for dental care have prolonged
 - Effects of isolation seen in young people and in older people living alone