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Monday 14 September 2020

NOTE FOR ALL CHILDMINDERS

To all registered childminding services

UPDATED GUIDANCE ON SOCIAL GATHERINGS

We are aware that the First Minister's announcement of Thursday 10 September of increased restrictions on social gatherings has led to a number of questions about the impact on childminding services.

Firstly, the imposition of new limits on social gatherings does not apply to sectors and activities which are already operating under their own separate guidance.

Childminders operating under the [safe operating guidance for childminding services](#) should continue to operate their business within the number of registered places as usual with no restriction to the number of families that can attend.

Secondly, we know that childminders greatly value being able to meet up with other childminders and the children they care for in group activities.

During this period, should a childminder wish to meet up with another childminder and their children then the [social meeting guidance applies](#), with all households and individuals involved from the other setting counting towards the current limits set by that guidance.

The new limits within the social meeting guidance continue to apply to any meetings between childminders, their children and others outside the setting. All children and adults – and all households - meeting must remain within the limits set out in detail in the guidance. In summary those limits are:

- When meeting people outside your household for a social gathering, you may meet people socially from no more than 1 other household at a time indoors or outdoors.
- You should stay at least 2 metres apart from people from other households at all times.
- This limit applies if, for example, meeting others at home, in an outdoor space including a garden or park, or in a hospitality setting such as a café.
- Children under 12 from the two households do not need to maintain physical distance and do not count towards the total number of people at the gathering.

I appreciate that these new rules will restrict meetings between two childminding settings at this time and am grateful for your continued understanding of this public health guidance.

Thank you again for everything you do for Scotland's children and families, particularly in these challenging times.

Alison Cumming
Interim Director, Early Learning and Childcare