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10 June 2020

To: All registered fully outdoor childcare providers

On 29 May, the Scottish Government sent out a notice to all registered childcare providers, setting out how Phase 1 of [Scotland's routemap through and out of the crisis](#) impacts on the childcare sector as a whole.

Our priority is the safety of every individual in Scotland. The easing of lockdown is an indication that Scotland is now in a position to slowly and cautiously begin to move forward and out of the Covid-19 crisis. The virus still exists and it is important that we continue to follow the guidance around physical distancing (where possible), increased hygiene measures and that we self-isolate if an individual or members of their household have any symptoms of coronavirus. More information can be found at [NHS Inform](#).

We wanted to provide you with a further note on what this means for you as providers of fully outdoor childcare provision, as guidance for those settings who wish to operate during Phase 1, was published yesterday.

- **[Phase 1 Guidance](#) for fully outdoor childcare providers was published on 1 June 2020. This guidance will be kept under review.**
- **From Wednesday 3 June 2020, all fully outdoor childcare providers can operate if they wish to do so. This applies to 26 fully outdoor early learning and childcare providers and 1 fully outdoor out of school care provider (as detailed in the [Care Inspectorate's registration](#) of fully outdoor services)**
- **In allocating their spaces, continued critical childcare for [keyworkers and vulnerable children](#) should be the first priority. Beyond that, providers can use their discretion to allocate places to families. Where possible, critical provision should be delivered as part of a coordinated local authority-led emergency response.**
- **There is no requirement to reopen immediately or during Phase 1 at all. It is important that settings take the time they need to consider if they wish to operate their service during Phase 1, based on their own business circumstances.**
- **Providers and staff must continue to follow public health advice, including the [advice for COVID-19 infected households](#) and the [Health Protection Scotland COVID-19 guidance for non-healthcare settings](#). Risk assessments of settings must take place, giving consideration to the relevant guidance.**

Financial and Business Support

We recognise that many providers are concerned about their sustainability and ability to continue to offer their essential service during this time. We will continue to update our guidance on [business and financial support](#), which sets various sources of support that businesses may be able to access.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The guidance that has been published today includes information on PPE. You may also wish to watch [a message from the National Clinical Director of the Scottish Government, Jason Leitch](#), about the use of PPE in childcare settings.

Test and Protect

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Clarification around small group working

We are aware of some concerns from providers which have been raised around the new guidance and the practical implementation of small group working. We are continuing to work with Public Health Scotland so that we can provide clarification where helpful and will notify providers when any changes are made.

Thank You

We fully recognise the critical role that early learning and childcare and out of school care provision will play in our long term economic recovery from the pandemic, and to realising our shared commitment to improving children's outcomes through high quality ELC and childcare. Thank you.