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To:

Registered care home providers (adults)
Chief Executives NHS Boards and Local Authorities
Chief Officers Health and Social Care Partnerships
Chief Social Work Officers
Directors of Public Health,
Nurse and Medical Directors

23 July 2020

Dear Colleague

Visiting in adult care homes

As you know, we recently published a plan for a phased return to visiting in adult care homes. See:

www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-homes-visiting-guidance

From 3 July residents were able to receive visitors outside as part of stage two of the visiting plan. I fully appreciate the considerable effort of all parties involved in the preparations to support and facilitate care homes to receive such visitors.

I know many of you are in the process of planning for the move to stage three of the visiting plan which will permit 2-3 outdoor visitors and one indoor designated visitor. We are currently reviewing arrangements for moving to stage three. As part of this we are examining information on virus prevalence, care home participation in the staff testing programme and data on COVID-19 cases in care homes. We will provide a further update in as soon as we can. In the meantime, current arrangements for supporting visitors outside should continue to remain in place. This is in addition to essential visits which allow people to visit loved ones in their final days and in other exceptional circumstances; these should continue to be supported throughout all stages.

I want to thank you for your commitment to supporting and protecting people in our care homes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

JEANE FREEMAN

