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## To all registered childcare providers and childminders

This notice provides updates on:

- How to watch last Thursday's event on the updated guidance and testing programme;
- How practitioners can provide input to a forthcoming event on vaccination;
- A point of clarification on the use of refillable cleaning products.

### **Accessing last week's event on Covid guidance and testing programmes**

Thank you to everyone who attended last Thursday's ELC Live event on the [updated Covid guidance for childcare settings](#) which featured the Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Marion Bain, Diane Stockton from Public Health Scotland, Doreen Watson from the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Government Policy Team.

Anyone who wasn't able to join us on the night can access a recording of the event [here](#).

We will provide further information on key topics raised at the event that we did not have time to cover that evening via next week's provider notice.

### **'Ask an expert' event on vaccination**

We continue to encourage everyone to get fully vaccinated as soon as possible. Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself, your family and colleagues against serious illness.

We are engaging with public health experts to film a short Q&A session on COVID vaccinations. Anyone working in childcare can submit questions in advance. We'll then put your questions to our experts, film the conversation and share it with you.

If you have any questions relating to COVID vaccines, you can submit them anonymously [here](#). **Please submit your questions before close of play on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.** We will film the conversation shortly after that and will share it as soon as possible.

### **COVID Guidance – clarification on refillable bottles**

When we drafted the most recent iteration of the childcare guidance we sought advice from the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection (ARHAI) team in Scotland. ARHAI are the authors of the 2018 infection prevention and control in childcare settings guidance, which was the standard guidance that all settings followed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARHAI cleaning measures are based on environmental infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance, which was developed by the Centre for Disease Control.

Since publishing the updated [Scottish Government Coronavirus: Early Learning and Childcare Guidance](#) on 17 March we have received feedback from the sector querying why the guidance suggests that refillable spray containers should not be used for cleaning products.

The justification for what the guidance sets out on the use of refillable dispensers (bottles) is that they are susceptible to contamination if they are not cleaned properly. If equipment contains contaminated cleaning solutions, then a spray nozzle that generates aerosols has the potential to spread the contaminated solution more widely, and that is why we do not recommend their use.

Since 17 March ARHAI have advised us that refillable dispensers can be used if any remaining cleaning fluid is discarded and if the spray mechanism and container are thoroughly cleaned and dried out before the next use. Bottles that dispense liquid without generating aerosols (such as dishwashing liquid bottles) are easier to clean and are therefore less likely to be a contamination risk.

We have been reassured that ARHAI plan to update the 2018 infection prevention and control in childcare settings guidance later this summer, and will reconsider this issue then.

Thank you once again for everything that you are doing to support children, families and your teams.



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