



Wednesday 19 August 2020

NOTE FOR ALL CHILDCARE PROVIDERS - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To all registered childcare providers,

Scotland's Directors of Public Health alerted us on Friday to a number of cases of children being in school after recently returning from countries not exempt from self-isolation ("quarantine") rules. This has also been raised by members of the Education Recovery Group. The Health Protection (Coronavirus) (International Travel) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 require all those returning to Scotland from non-exempt countries to self-isolate at home or another appropriate location for 14 days. Those self-isolating should not go out to work or childcare or school or visit public areas. As you will know, the list of exempt countries has been changed in recent days, with the removal of some countries, including France and the Netherlands, where people in Scotland commonly spend their holidays.

We wrote to Directors of Education on Monday 17 August 2020 with this message.

We would be grateful if you and your teams could familiarise yourself with this information, including ensuring safeguarding measures are in place. We also ask that you communicate and engage these requirements immediately to all families to ensure adherence to the legal requirements.

We attach a link to the relevant guidance

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/> and to the list of exempt countries

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/exemptions/>.

Directors of Public Health and local health protection teams are available to offer further support where there are concerns.

Childcare guidance updates

We are updating the suite of childcare guidance to reflect the information contained within this notice. We will write to you when the guidance has been updated.

Staff reassurance

Staff may feel anxious or worried at this time, there is a lot of information to process and understand. It is important that staff feel safe while at work, informed of the latest information and confident when communicating information to families. It is really important that staff understand the information we have outlined above about children attending childcare settings after returning from non-exempt quarantine countries.

The [Early Years Scotland Team ELC Wellbeing Hub](#) has lots of practical help and advice to help with wellbeing, stress, anxiety and much more.

Communication with parents

It is important that we continue to reassure parents and carers that it is safe for their child to return to childcare but equally that they are high quality and nurturing environments. We would encourage you to continue to keep in touch with families.

It is also important that parents/carers are aware of the legal requirements for their family if they are returning from non-exempt countries.

[Parent Club](#) is a fantastic resource that has lots of helpful information and advice. It may also be helpful to refer parents to the Scottish Government webpage with information about international travel - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-public-health-checks-at-borders/pages/overview/>

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

Dr Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer
Professor Fiona McQueen, Chief Nursing Officer
Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director