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**Health Board Chief Executives
Integration Joint Board Chief Officers**

**Copy to:
Medical Directors
Directors of Nursing/ AHPs
Primary Care clinical leads
Directors of Planning**

For action

26 July 2021

Dear colleagues

MANAGING THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF COVID-19 – MAPPING EXERCISE

As you will be aware, on 18 December 2020 the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN), the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) published a rapid clinical [guideline](#) covering the identification, assessment and management of the long-term effects of COVID-19, often described as ‘Long COVID’.

The guideline makes recommendations about care in all healthcare settings for people who have new or ongoing symptoms 4 weeks or more after the start of acute COVID-19. It also includes advice on organising services for Long COVID.

The guideline contains information that NHS Boards will find helpful in the planning and delivery of care to people experiencing Long COVID, and the [Implementation Support Note](#) issued in May 2021 by the Chief Medical Officer provides practical information for Primary Care teams.

Providing safe, person-centred and effective care and support for people with Long COVID is a Ministerial priority.

The Scottish Government recognises that Long COVID has created a new pressure for NHS services to manage.

Therefore, in order to support NHS Boards to better understand and meet the needs of this new condition, the Scottish Government has commissioned National Services Division (NSD) to carry out a mapping exercise with a view to understanding:

- How services are currently being delivered across Scotland to support people with Long COVID.
- Pressures on existing services as a result of this new, emerging condition and responding to the needs of people affected by Long COVID.
- What additional measures and support is required to support NHS Scotland in meeting the needs of people living with Long COVID.

This exercise is being undertaken to inform decision making with a view to making recommendations in relation to support, it is not intended as judgement of performance.

Action: Please cascade the questionnaire appropriately and encourage relevant colleagues to complete it online by **9th August 2021**. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the questionnaire, please contact karyn.robertson@nhs.scot

Health Board Long COVID Lead

The Scottish Government is looking to have a Long COVID point of contact in each Board, therefore we are asking each Health Board to nominate their Long COVID Lead.

It is our intention to create a network for sharing good practice and keep NHS Boards informed of any Scottish Government initiatives on Long COVID.

Action: I would be most grateful if you could send the contact details of your nominated Long COVID Lead to clinical_priorities@gov.scot as soon as possible and no later than **30th July 2021**.

Conclusion

We wish to express again our thanks for your co-operation with this work which is essential to identify the immediate support needs of NHS Boards, Integration Joint Boards and Primary Care.

Yours sincerely



Professor Jason Leitch
National Clinical Director
Scottish Government



Susan Buchanan
Director of National Specialist and
Screening Division
National Services Scotland