



Addresses

For Action

GP Practices

For Information

Scottish General Practitioners Committee
Primary Care Leads NHS Boards

Policy Enquiries to:

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16th July 2021

Dear Colleague

As you will be aware the First Minister announced on 13th July, that the whole of Scotland will move to a modified Level 0 from Monday 19th July, with a further review then planned on 9th August.

We have been asked by SGPC (BMA) and RCGP(Scotland) to clarify what this means for General Practice and the public accessing primary care services at this time, so I am writing to you to let you know that at this time there will be **NO** change to any of the current Infection Control and Physical Distancing guidance which you are currently working to.

This means that practices should continue to work to the guidance as set out here: [National Infection Prevention and Control Manual: Scottish COVID-19 Community Health and Care Settings Infection Prevention and Control Addendum](#)

In simple terms this means that the requirement for staff to wear PPE and patients to wear face coverings continues, cleaning and other infection control processes should continue as set out in the guidance for medium and high risk patients, and physical distancing remains at 2m in waiting areas. These issues remain under constant review and the physical distancing measure in particular is under active discussion, and we will update you as soon as we are aware of any changes to the guidance. In the meantime you will find attached an example poster that you can use to explain to patients the current guidance you are working to.

In the meantime please refer to the [General Practice Recovery Guidance](#) and the [FAQs](#) or contact Charlotte.leggatt@nhs.scot with any queries.

Yours sincerely

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The Scottish Government requires General Practice and other healthcare settings to have different infection control and physical distancing guidance to other places such as hospitals and shops.

This is to help reduce the risk to practice staff and to people attending the practice who may be at greater risk if they catch Covid 19.

From 19 July 2021 (when we go to Level 0) the following rules still apply in General Practice:

- wearing of face coverings by patients and the public (unless you are exempt)
- physical distancing of **2 metres** in waiting rooms
- contact your practice by telephone in the first instance
- wearing of PPE by staff
- screening of all patients for Covid 19 symptoms

Please support your local practice team by complying with this guidance.