



## Covid-19 - General

### [Update ahead of decision to move to level zero](#)

The Scottish Government's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has made a statement to the press ahead of the Scottish Parliament being recalled from recess on Tuesday 13 July for the announcement on whether the easing of restrictions will go ahead as planned. The First Minister has expressed optimism that Scotland will be able to move level zero restrictions on Monday 19 July, however, baseline measures such as the use of face masks and physical distancing are expected to remain in place for some time.

### [High risk cases to be prioritised in Test and Protect](#)

The Scottish Government has announced Test & Protect contact tracing staff will prioritise phone calls to high risk cases to ensure the system delivers maximum benefit as cases rise. SMS text messages will now be used more extensively for low risk index cases, with direct telephone calls continuing to be used for the most high risk cases. [Additional staff will also be deployed.](#)

### [Evidence summary of Covid-19 measures among children](#)

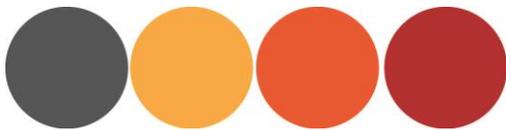
The Scottish Government has published a summary of the evidence base for Covid-19 mitigation measures aimed at children and young people in Scotland. It focuses on children and young people and their parents' understanding of these restrictions and their attitudes to Covid-19 measures, compliance and enforcement. It also examines the evidence on the impacts of mitigation measures on children and young people.

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### [Restrictions to be lifted from Monday 19 July \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Prime Minister Boris Johnson has announced a series of restrictions will be lifted in England from Monday 19 July, including steps to remove mandatory face coverings and legal limits on indoor and outdoor gatherings. The 'COVID-19 Response: Summer 2021' publication sets out the new phase in the response to the pandemic and the arrangements that will be put in place in England.

### [Update to self-isolation rules \(England\)](#)

In a statement to the House of Commons, the UK Government's Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid has provided an update on Covid-19 and self-isolation requirements. From Monday 16 August, double-vaccinated close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID will no longer be required to self-isolate, however, they should access a PCR test and isolate as normal if they test positive.

### [Review on social distancing \(England\)](#)

The UK Government has published a report on a review of social distancing measures, and other long-term measures that have been put in place to limit transmission, specifically face coverings and guidance on working from home. The review has considered a range of evidence related to the impact of social distancing and the implications of its lifting: scientific, social, economic and behavioural, including advice from the Behavioural Insights Team.

## **Early Learning and Childcare**

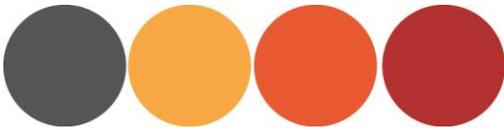
### [Research to explore the childminding workforce](#)

The Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) is highlighting a project being undertaken by Ipsos MORI for themselves, the Scottish Government, and the Care Inspectorate on the childminding workforce and exploring the reasons behind the decline in numbers in the profession. Participants are invited to apply by Monday 12 July.

## **Education**

### [Operational Covid-19 guidance for schools \(England\)](#)

The UK Government's Department for Education has published operational guidance for schools from Step 4 of the roadmap. This removes restrictions such as keeping children in bubbles and wearing face coverings in classrooms, communal areas and on dedicated school transport. School trips, drama, music and sporting activity will also be able to resume. The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, Shirley-Anne Somerville, in [an interview](#) on Good Morning Scotland, Shirley-Anne Somerville has confirmed the Scottish Government is "looking very



seriously” at whether changes could be made to self-isolation measures for children and young people in Scotland.

## Justice

### [Transitions for young people in conflict with the law](#)

A supplement to Scotland’s framework for children and young people aged 14-25 with additional support needs, who are making the transition to young adult life, specifically for children and young people in conflict with the law, has been co-produced by the Children and Young People’s Centre for Justice (CYCJ) with support from the Scottish Transitions Forum and the SOLD Network. It combines information for those working with children and young people in any setting (including the community, through services, at school or a residential environment) with the words of the young people themselves.

#### **Disclaimer**

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning children and young people.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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