

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE  
Not for onward distribution without the authority of the Chief Medical Officer

Scottish Government Advisory Group on Covid-19  
Advice on Care Homes and Stage 3  
17 July 2020

ANNEXA

## Deciding on when to move to stage 3 care home visiting pathway

This short paper outlines a proposed approach for a decision to move to stage 3 of the care home visiting pathway and a project plan for managing decisions and communications.

Below is a summary of the care home visiting pathway  
(Each stage is dependent on the scientific advice given at the appropriate time)

Stage Readiness	Stage 1 (prior to any relaxation)	Stage 2 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Stage 3 24 <sup>th</sup> July Subject to Scientific Advice	Stage 4 14 <sup>th</sup> August Subject to Scientific Advice
Visiting	Essential Visits only (End of Life, Stress and Distress)	Essential Visits  Garden Visits (One key / designated visitor).	Essential Visits  Garden visits with multiple visitors.  Indoor visits (one key / designated visitor).	Essential Visits  Controlled programme of garden and indoor visits.
Communal activity	Avoidance of communal areas	Residents use of outdoor areas in limited numbers. Avoidance of indoor communal areas	Residents use of outdoor areas in limited numbers. All residents use of communal areas in limited numbers with full physical distancing and IPC.	All residents use of indoor and outdoor communal areas in limited numbers with full physical distancing and IPC.
Required	Resident consent Choice of designated visitor Screening visitors Care Home risk assessment Visitors must maintain physical distancing Staff and visitors must wear face coverings and if PPE A strict cleaning regime must be in place			
Settings	Homes with no outbreak			

**Commented [J1]:** Does this mean wearing masks and SICPs?

**Commented [J2]:** What are the criteria for this?

**Commented [J3]:** Staff should wear masks and visitors face coverings?

**Commented [J4]:** Needs specified inclusive of high touch sites or objects

**Commented [J5]:** No case rather than no outbreak

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

Not for onward distribution without the authority of the Chief Medical Officer

	Homes declared free of outbreak by Public Health Team <b>28 days from last symptoms</b> of any resident
--	---

## Moving to Stage Three

The proposed text for the route map phase 3 is:

***Care homes that have been COVID-free throughout the outbreak, or where they have been 28 days since a resident displayed any COVID symptoms, can move to stage 3 of the visiting and communal activity pathway. This allows multiple outdoor visitors, one designated indoor visitor and limited communal living experience to be restarted from 24 July***

In phase three we would introduce three aspects to communal living and visiting.

**1. Multiple visitors outdoors** – to a *maximum of 8 people from two separate households* as per other Scottish Guidance.

For this to work there would have to be:

- PPE worn by all visitors as appropriate
- Physical Distancing of 2 metres
- IPC measures in place
- Registration of visitors for test and trace
- Visiting Guidance that is clear
- Care Home risk assessment which takes into account the constraints of physical space and staff capacity to supervise as well as clear scheduling and cleaning regimes.
- This could not happen in homes that have an outbreak and have not been declared 'open' after 28 days.
- Visitors will stay away if they are unwell.
- All visitors are screened and turned away by staff if they are unwell or have been in contact with anyone symptomatic in the last 14 days.

**2. One designated visitor indoors, once per week for 30-40 minutes.**

For this to work there would have to be:

A single designated visitor as per Stages 2 above.

- PPE worn by all visitors as appropriate
- IPC measures in place
- Registration of staff and visitors for test and trace
- Visiting guidance that is clear
- Physical distancing
- A safe area for visiting that can be easily cleaned between visits
- Care Home risk assessment that takes into account the constraints of scheduling and staff capacity to supervise.
- This could not happen in homes that have an outbreak and have not been declared 'open' after 28 days.
- Visitors will stay away if they are unwell.

**Commented [J6]:** Needs to have specific guidance re what by who and when

**Commented [J7]:** Needs specified

**Commented [J8]:** Also needs good ventilation-e.g. can open a window and ideally will only have the resident and their visitor in it

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**Not for onward distribution without the authority of the Chief Medical Officer**

- All visitors are screened and turned away by staff if they are unwell or have been in contact with anyone symptomatic in the last 14 days.

**3. Resumption of activities in communal living spaces.**

For this to work there would have to be:

- PPE worn by staff as appropriate
- IPC measures in place
- Physical distancing in communal areas
- Ventilation maximised- windows open etc not in rooms with poor ventilation
- Regular cleaning schedules for surfaces etc.
- Clear guidance
- Limited numbers at any one time as appropriate to social distancing limitations (with potentially staggered meal times in dining areas and spaced seating plans etc.)
- Care Home risk assessment that takes into account staff capacity, cleaning regimes and resident activity scheduling.
- This could not happen in homes that have an outbreak and have not been declared 'open' after 28 days.

**Commented [J9]:** Comments as above- not clear

**Commented [J10]:** On what?

Shielding residents would be able to access the same visiting and communal activities as other Care Home residents.

The criteria to determine safety to progress to Stage Three would be:

- Continued fall in community rates of infection (as per table below)
- Continued fall in the number of homes with ongoing cases (as at 5 July now sits at 11% of all adult care homes).
- Continued fall in death rates (as at 07/07/20 these stand at 16 for week 26 – down from 20 in week 25)
- Approval by CMO advisory group (per this request)
- Sign off by Directors of Public Health local Health Protection Teams for each home. (as per visiting in stage 2)
- Staff testing in place (which it now is)
- High compliance with IPC measures (as measured by structure and process indicators)

One of the key predictors of when it would be safe to explore visiting to care homes are the rates of infection in the population around the home.

Date and Phase	Assumptions if R=0.65	Assumptions if R=0.75	Days in 'Lockdown'
19 <sup>th</sup> June	2,000 cases (c) or 1/2750 of population	2000 c or 1/2750	98
26 <sup>th</sup> June	1,300 c or 1/4230	1500 c or 1/3666	105
3 <sup>rd</sup> July – Stage 2 started	845 c or 1/6508	1125 c or 1/4889	112
10 <sup>th</sup> July	549 c or 1/10000	844 c or 1/6516	119
17 <sup>th</sup> July	356 c or 1/15450	633 c or 1/8688	126
24 <sup>th</sup> July – Stage 3?	232 c or 1/23706	475 c or 1/11579	133

**OFFICIAL SENSITIVE**

**Not for onward distribution without the authority of the Chief Medical Officer**

If we are to take an arbitrary number, ideally we would aim to have prevalence below 1/12,000 of the population (roughly) and that date is likely to be between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. The 24<sup>th</sup> of July is also 3 weeks after the Stage 2 visiting commenced in theory allowing adequate time to ensure that there are not setbacks related to opening visiting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

**Key questions:**

1. Assuming the criteria listed above are met by the specific dates, do the committee feel it would be safe to proceed to the next stage (Stage 3) of Visiting on the 24<sup>th</sup> July as described above?
2. Are there areas of concern needing addressed?

**Scottish Government Advisory Group on Covid-19: 17 July 2020**