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The Presiding Officer
c/o The Chamber Desk
Room G10
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Edinburgh
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11 September 2020

Dear Presiding Officer

NEW RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE FOR LANARKSHIRE HEALTH BOARD

Further to my letter of 7 September 2020, I am writing to update you on implementation of local restrictions across the Lanarkshire Health Board areas, following a National Incident Management Team (N-IMT) meeting this afternoon, where the current picture was reviewed.

Daily figures show the rise in new cases in Lanarkshire to be of significant concern. The incidence rates per 100,000 as reported to N-IMT are up from 25 yesterday to 30.2 today; with 32.6/100,000 in South Lanarkshire Council and 28.5 in North Lanarkshire Council.

The same restrictions in place across Greater Glasgow and Clyde health Board will be extended across Lanarkshire Health Board. These are;

- People in the North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire local authority areas should not meet with people from other households in indoor household settings.
- People from these areas should also not meet people in indoor household settings in other local authority areas.
- Members of different households can continue to meet outdoors, including in gardens, and in hospitality settings, provided all existing guidance is followed.
- Indoor visits to hospitals and care homes will be limited to essential visits only to protect the most vulnerable. Outdoor visits to care homes are permitted by three people from a maximum of two households, in line with current guidance.

The restrictions will come into force from midnight tonight. Part of the rationale is to get ahead of the weekend before Monday's restrictions.

As you will know, the rise in new COVID-19 cases continues to be of wider concern and we are at a stage of this pandemic where we must all act with extreme caution.

The position remains under careful scrutiny by the National IMT who will continue to work with local partners to closely monitor the role of hospitality in this evolving situation.

Those households who have formed an extended household and people providing care and support – for example caring for an elderly family member or delivering shopping - can continue to meet indoors with enhanced hygiene measures in place.

Decisions to implement local restrictions are never taken lightly and are made with regard to the nature and extent of the public health risk with due consideration of the four harms as set out in our Framework for Decision Making. The view of the Chief Medical Officer in relation this proposal is that it is proportionate, appropriate and necessary.

Officials are liaising with elected Council members and senior Council officials in both North and South Lanarkshire.

The position in relation to GGC Health Board area remains under careful scrutiny by the National IMT and, the ongoing justification for restrictions kept is under review throughout, with no different recommendations being made at present.

As mentioned a meeting of SGoRR on the interim review of the restrictions for Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire took place earlier this week, advising that restrictions be continued for at least a further seven days.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Convenors of the COVID-19 Committee and the Health and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely

John Swinney
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills

