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Donald Cameron MSP
Convener
Covid-19 Committee

Covid.Committee@parliament.scot

12 January 2021

Dear Donald

During the Committee session on 17 December 2020, the Deputy Convener raised a question about self-isolation guidance in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area and it was agreed that I would follow up this point in writing.

I can confirm that other than the recent reduction in the isolation period to 10 days from 14 December 2020 onwards, there has been no change to national policy regarding self-isolation requirements.

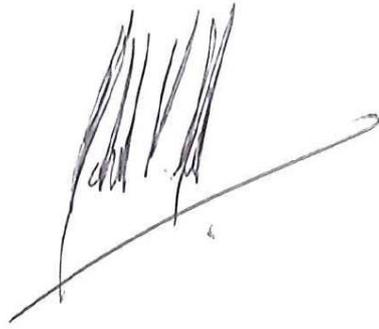
The specific matter raised relates to the discretion that local health boards have to implement health protection and contact tracing measures in their local area that have been risk assessed as being appropriate as part of their outbreak management response. In these instances, people will be advised to follow the Local Health Protection team's advice rather than the national guidance.

NHS Glasgow and Greater Clyde have advised that they only make decisions where self-isolation is not required on an individual risk assessed basis and are only issuing advice not to self-isolate in limited circumstances. The advice that people may not need to self-isolate has only been issued when people have proactively contacted NHS Glasgow and Greater Clyde directly and have indicated that such advice has been passed to a relatively small number of people.

Our local Test and Protect service carries out individual risk assessments for contacts of positive cases. As such, advice may vary from person to person when all relevant circumstances are taken into account.

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I hope this is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Russell', written over a long horizontal line that serves as a baseline.

MICHAEL RUSSELL

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