

Donald Cameron MSP
Convenor, COVID Committee
(Email via Committee Clerks)

19 March 2021

Dear Mr Cameron

FOLLOW UP TO QUERIES AT 18 MARCH 2021 COVID COMMITTEE MEETING

I am writing to provide further information on three specific queries raised at yesterday's COVID-19 Committee Meeting by Ms Lennon. (I hope that I have captured the queries correctly).

1. Whether parent and baby classes may resume and under which protective measures?

Regarding parent and baby classes, these groups are already permitted outdoors including under current restrictions, for up to 15 adults and an unlimited number of children under the age of 5.

In line with the publication of this week's timetable for easing restrictions, assuming the data supports such a move (and this caveat applies to all of the dates below), from 26 April we expect that these groups will be allowed to meet indoors for up to 10 adults.

Updated guidance on the protective measures affecting parent and baby classes is due to be available at this link before the end of March: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): organised activities for children - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/topics/health/coronavirus/covid-19/organised-activities-for-children)

2. On what date dance classes for children may resume?

In line with the guidance in place for sporting activities set by sportscotland, providing the data supports these changes, all dance classes for those under 18 can restart from 26 April. However, some dance classes are already permitted. I set out further detail below:

Outdoor dance classes

Currently, for those under the age of 12, dance classes are permitted outdoors for groups of up to 30 people (including coaches) where dance classes are following sportscotland guidance. This applies to both contact and non-contact activities. Please note that if the guidance for organised group activities is being observed instead, the capacity limit is set at 15.

Currently, for those aged 12-17, dance classes (non-contact) are permitted outdoors for groups of up to 15 people.

From 5 April, for those aged 12-17, dance classes involving contact activities (no social distancing required) will be permitted outdoors for groups of up to 15 people.

Indoor dance classes

Currently, indoor dance classes are not permitted.

From 26 April, for children of all ages, dance classes will be permitted for groups of up to 30 people. This capacity limit will also apply to outdoor classes from this date.

For further queries on this area, sportscotland guidance (and sport specific guidance) can be found here and is due to be updated before the end of March: [Latest sport and physical activity guidance \(sportscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.sportscotland.org.uk/guidance).

3. Whether baby clothes shops are allowed to reopen on 5 April?

Baby equipment stores will be able to reopen from 5 April, in line with the retail guidance set out in our timetable for easing coronavirus restrictions. However, clothing stores will still only be able to operate a permitted collection service until 26 April.

More generally, from 26 April, we will return to an adjusted levels system on a nationwide basis as we carefully ease restrictions, and we will publish shortly the adjusted levels table which will outline what will and will not be possible in each level.

Thank you for raising these points and I hope that you find these answers helpful. I am copying this reply, for information, to Ms Lennon, to the Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, Europe and External Affairs and to the Committee Clerks.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Munro

Director, COVID-19: Exit Strategy
Scottish Government