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2 July 2020

## COVID-19: SCOTLAND'S ROUTE MAP THROUGH AND OUT OF THE CRISIS – UPDATE ON APPROACH TO PHYSICAL DISTANCING

The Scottish Government has today published [COVID-19: Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis – Update on approach to physical distancing in light of advice from the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group](#) which provides an update on the approach to physical distancing in Scotland as we move through Phase 2 and Phase 3. This approach continues to be informed by evidence and has been updated in light of [advice from the Scottish Government COVID-19 Advisory Group](#) which has also been published today.

Consistent with the advice set out from the Advisory Group we are proposing to retain 2m as the default physical distancing requirement for the remainder of Phase 2 and for Phase 3. We are, however, intending to make exceptions to this 2m requirement for a limited number of sectors and settings, which are deemed appropriate. This will only be appropriate in such sectors and settings where individual workplaces or premises meet agreed mitigating conditions.

These exceptions would take into account the wider harms caused by the 2 metre rule: to broader health, the economy and society and will be subject to strict mitigations which must be met by each specific workplace/setting to qualify for the exception. Consideration of settings must take account of transmission risk, particularly in known high-transmission risk settings.

The publication also updates on the final stage of Phase 2 of Scotland's Route Map. Continued progress in suppressing the virus, as measured by the latest data, means that we are able to confirm the indicative dates for the remainder of Phase 2, concerning relaxation of the 5 mile guidance on travel for leisure purposes, the re-opening of self-contained, self-

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catering accommodation and the re-opening of outdoor hospitality. In addition to this we are also including two new measures to come into effect on 3 July to allow children and young people more opportunity to meet up.

This letter has been copied to the Health and Sport and Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committees.

*Yours truly*



**JOHN SWINNEY**

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