



Mr Lewis Macdonald MSP  
Convener  
Health and Sport Committee

October 2020

### **Optimising visiting in adult care homes – publication of updated guidance**

I write to inform you that today I have published updated guidance to support visiting in adult care homes in Scotland

The guidance provides additional advice and updates to help care homes achieve a better balance between safety and the need for family and visitor contact. It has been developed with input from family members, carers, and clinicians and offers greater flexibility in visiting arrangements and indoor visiting in particular, as winter approaches

The guidance along with an updating visiting leaflet can be found here:

[www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-homes-visiting-guidance](http://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-care-homes-visiting-guidance)

The Clinical and Professional Advisory Group (CPAG), a short life multi-disciplinary group chaired by members of the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer directorates, will continue to review the guidance taking account of changes in the emerging picture around COVID-19.

I have also taken the opportunity to advise stakeholders of two other important matters. Firstly, our continued programme to transition weekly care home staff testing to NHS labs from the UKG Lighthouse Lab to ensure we can improve turnaround times and protect this critical testing programme from any impact of spikes in UK testing demand; secondly, our commitment to continue to provide additional PPE where normal business routes are insufficient or fail and that support will continue until end March 2021.

**JEANE FREEMAN**

