



Independent Healthcare Provider  
Independent Dental Provider

8 January 2021

Dear colleague

## **INDEPENDENT HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19): ADDENDUM AND UPDATE TO LETTER OF 10 NOVEMBER**

We last wrote to you on 10 November 2020, and are now writing to update you following the further COVID-19 restrictions announced by the First Minister in Parliament on 5 January 2021.

As indicated by the First Minister, a new faster spreading variant of the virus has recently been identified and is one which spreads at a far quicker rate than previously experienced. Evidence clearly indicates that the new variant is up to 70% more transmissible than previously circulating strains, and that it may add as much as 0.7 to the R number. As a consequence, further restrictions have been introduced and a legal requirement to stay at home, except for essential purposes, has been introduced.

Amendments have been made to the Health Protection (Coronavirus) (Restrictions and Requirements) (Local Levels) Scotland Regulations 2020 to support the Scottish Government's aim of slowing down the spread of the virus and these came into force on 8 January 2021. As independent healthcare services these amendments will affect you if you offer aesthetic or cosmetic procedures.

### **COVID-19 Level 4 Restrictions**

These new provisions mean that, by law, independent clinics and independent hospitals will only be able to provide essential healthcare or urgent medical or surgical assistance in Level 4 areas. In line with the general advice to the public about essential healthcare services remaining available, independent healthcare services can continue to provide medical or dental care which is comparable to that available through the NHS.

Medical or surgical assistance does not include any cosmetic or aesthetic procedures (such as the injection or implantation into or under the skin of a substance for cosmetic purposes, or electrolysis). **Therefore, by law, cosmetic or aesthetic procedures must not be provided in Level 4 areas.**

### **Guidance**



Comprehensive guidance on the provision of healthcare during the pandemic to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is available on the [HPS website](#). For dentistry there is further guidance on the [Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme website](#).

## **Travel**

You are reminded that under the current restrictions, we should all stay at home as much as possible and avoid unnecessary travel. By law, in a level 4 area, you can only leave your home (or garden) for an essential purpose. You must therefore not encourage patients to travel for any non-essential purposes. General travel guidance is available in the following link: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on travel and transport - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

## **Regulation and Enforcement**

As the further COVID-19 restrictions highlighted above are now legal requirements, anyone found to be in breach of these regulations could be reported to the appropriate authorities. Enforcement, sanctions and monitoring of compliance will be undertaken by Local Authorities and Police Scotland as is the case for other Health Protection (Coronavirus) Regulations. HIS will provide appropriate input and advice to Local Authorities and Police Scotland.

## **Review**

Legislation requires that COVID-19 restrictions be reviewed on a regular basis and we will issue further advice following any further changes to the restrictions or Levels.

## **Government Support for Businesses**

We appreciate the impact that these latest restrictions will continue to have on you and your business. Advice on the support available to businesses during COVID-19 can be found on the [UK Government](#) and [Scottish Government](#) websites.

## **Conclusion**

Whilst the new vaccines and the rollout vaccination process provides light for everyone, the need to protect public health remains of paramount importance if we are to protect lives and prevent our NHS from becoming overwhelmed during the coming months.

Your continued support remains essential during this extremely challenging period and we know that you will continue to do everything in your power to protect the people of Scotland from Covid infection. Thank you for that commitment.

Yours sincerely



**PROFESSOR JASON LEITCH**

Yours sincerely



**TOM FERRIS**