



COVID-19
INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE IN CUSTODY
16 FEBRUARY 2021

As you will know, Scotland remains in lock down. Good progress is being made in bringing the case numbers down in the community. However, new strains of the virus have emerged which are more transmissible, meaning it is more important than ever to follow the guidance on good hand hygiene, social distancing and wearing face masks and face coverings. Improved treatments for COVID and the rollout of the vaccine offer some light at the end of the tunnel. The Scottish Government are reviewing the restrictions currently in place, with an announcement expected this afternoon. We will keep you informed of any updates.

Recent Outbreaks

In the past week there have been a number of new outbreaks of COVID 19 across the prison estate.

The majority of these cases are in 3 establishments; HMP Kilmarnock, HMP Addiewell and HMP Dumfries. At present there are 230 confirmed cases in HMP Kilmarnock, 86 confirmed cases in HMP Addiewell, and 27 in HMP Dumfries. The management teams in each of these establishments are working with local NHS teams and public health officials to ensure that every possible step is taken to protect the health and wellbeing of those living and working in those establishments.

These new cases have led to significant numbers of individuals in our care in these establishments being isolated as a precautionary measure. At present there are approximately 1285 individuals across the estate who are being asked to self-isolate.

As a result, necessary restrictions are in place and these restrictions mean that regimes have been significantly affected. Your prison management teams will be keeping you advised of any restrictions that are in place within your own establishment

One impact of these events has been a reduction in the availability of virtual visits in the establishments affected. Whilst staff will do everything they can to give access to these visits, their availability will be dependent upon local risk assessment. The SPS website will be updated to provide information of these restrictions to family and friends and will advise them to contact the establishment directly about specific arrangements for virtual visits.

We will continue to keep you updated on developments.

Vaccinations

As we told you last month, the vaccination programme is now underway across Scotland and it is now underway within our establishments. All people in custody over 80 have now been vaccinated and health boards are working through the priority list of those over 70 or having a medical priority, just like in community.

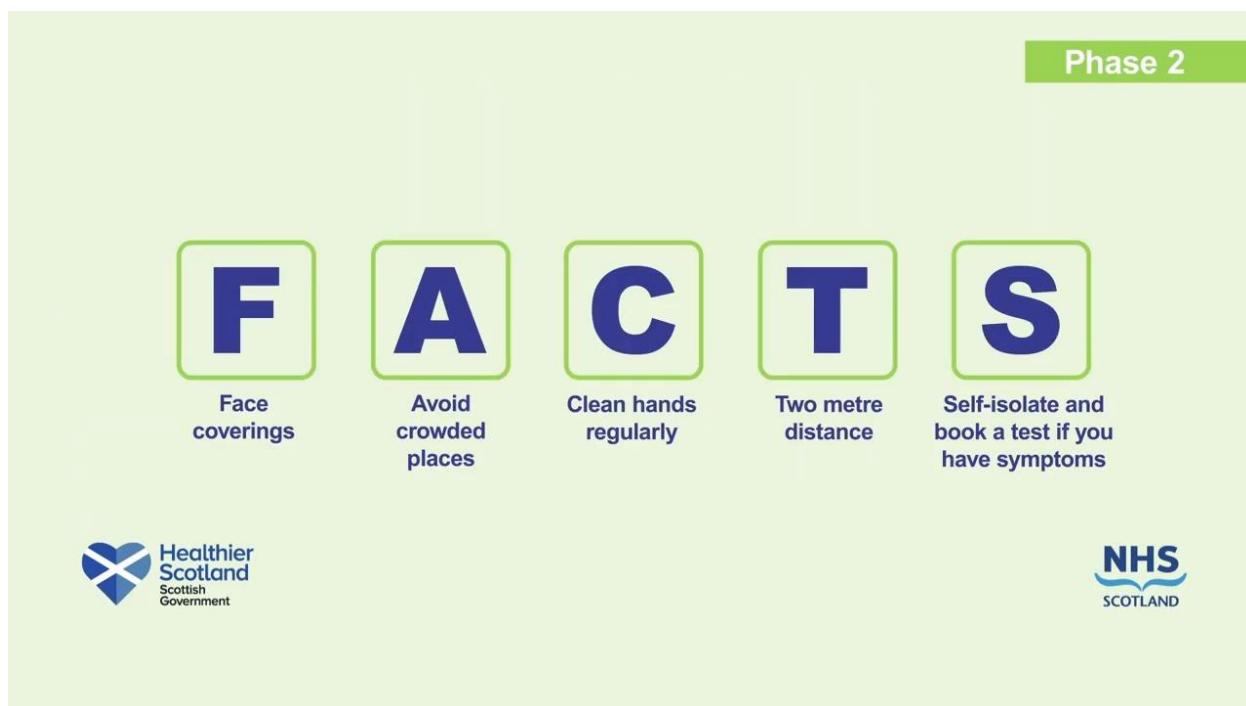
We will provide you with more information about how vaccinations will be made available to you as soon as this information becomes available.

Follow FACTS

These recent events remind us of the vital importance of adhering to the guidance. Each and every one of us must maintain the highest standards in terms of hygiene, not sharing items, wiping down surfaces, wearing face masks and face coverings and maintaining social distancing.

If you experience any of the symptoms of COVID (a new or persistent cough, a high temperature or the loss of sense of taste or smell), you must immediately tell a member of staff who will work with NHS staff to get you tested.

Each and every one of us must remember to follow FACTS.



Should you have any questions, please ask a member of staff. Once again, thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation as we work together to look after everyone living and working in our establishments.