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Clare Adamson
Convener
Education and Skills Committee
The Scottish Parliament

By email

8 March 2021

Dear Convener

Arrangements for the phased reopening of schools in March 2021 – supplementary guidance

This letter is to alert you to the revised supplementary guidance, published today, that has been prepared in response to the First Minister's announcement on 2 March that phase 2 of the return will take place on 15 March, unless new evidence or new circumstances require this to be reconsidered.

The revised supplementary guidance is intended to provide clarity on arrangements for school education in the run up to the Easter holiday and to help schools to plan for the proposed full-time return of all children in primary schools 3. It is also the intention that all secondary school pupils will return to spend some time in school from 15 March until the Easter break. All pupils are expected to return to full-time schooling after Easter, subject to continued suppression of the virus and the requirement for 2m physical distancing between young people being removed. The guidance is available via the link below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-schools-reopening/>

This guidance sits alongside [Education Scotland guidance](#) for local authorities on in-school and remote learning for secondary learners.

Tha Ministearan na h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus an Rùnaire
Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered
by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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This new guidance supplements the [existing Coronavirus: reducing risks in schools guidance](#), all aspects of this guidance and accompanying mitigations continue to apply.

Yours Sincerely

JOHN SWINNEY

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