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Sent by e-mail

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Dear colleague,

I am aware of the challenges that businesses in the close contact sector have faced during the pandemic. As you are aware, the Scottish Government undertook a rapid review of close contact operating services within the 'high risk zone'. I write today in my role as Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy to thank you for taking part in the recent stakeholder roundtable and to update you on the review's conclusion.

The roundtable on 30 April with officials and the Deputy National Clinical Director provided invaluable information that fed directly into the review and ensured that we were able to take the sector's views into account throughout this process.

We do not want any business or sector to face restrictions for a moment longer than is necessary. I am therefore pleased to confirm that from 31 May 2021, it will be permitted to temporarily remove a client's face covering for the purposes of carrying out a treatment to the mouth/nose area. This will require a specific standard of PPE – a Fluid Resistant Surgical Face Mask (Type IIR mask) and eye protection (goggles or a full face visor) - to be worn by the practitioner. Scottish Government officials are currently updating the close contact [guidance](#) for publication in advance of the changes coming into effect.

All of us still have a part to play in keeping the virus under control. The position we are in now, is far better than the position we were in over the winter and, because of that, we can all look forward to more restrictions being eased over the summer. The basic precautions and mitigations set out in sectoral guidance still really matter and, by continuing to follow them, we can continue to keep each other safe.

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I appreciate that this has been a difficult time for the sector and I hope you will be pleased with the review's outcome. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience and for your continuing adherence to the restrictions and public health advice - not only during the course of this review, but throughout the entire pandemic.



KATE FORBES

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