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Dear Colleagues

‘COVID-19: Guidance for maintaining services within health and care settings – Infection prevention and control recommendations’ Application of guidance document for Northern Ireland

As you will be aware, Northern Ireland is currently following the previous National IPC guidance (COVID-19: infection prevention and control guidance” Version 3.2, 18 June 2020) until an agreed plan for the use of the current [national maintenance guidance](#) has been agreed regionally.

You will be aware concerns were raised about the practical application of the previously named PHE Remobilisation Guidance issued in August 2020. In response to this an Expert Working Group was established to develop practical guidance to support local implementation. The Expert Working Group and Regional IPC Cell have reviewed the updated maintenance guidance and they are satisfied that previous concerns have been resolved therefore enabling Northern Ireland to move to utilising the updated PHE maintenance guidance in line with the other devolved administrations.

Can you therefore ensure the updated PHE maintenance guidance is now fully implemented which will now replace the previous PHE National IPC guidance (COVID-19: infection prevention and control guidance” Version 3.2, 18 June 2020). The updated PHE maintenance guidance can be found on the PHA website:

[https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2021-02/Infection Prevention and Control Guidance January 2021.pdf](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2021-02/Infection%20Prevention%20and%20Control%20Guidance%20January%202021.pdf)

Yours sincerely



Olive MacLeod
Interim Chief Executive

