Good Afternoon,

Following Ministerial approval, the National Gateway for progression to Regime Stage 2 is now open. Transition to Stage 2 will only be approved for sites where the risk of virus transmission is low, where plans for all pertinent EDMs at Stage 3 have been approved and where it is appropriate for risk to be locally managed. It is vitally important that meaningful engagement at a local level with recognised trade unions and key partners, especially health colleagues, takes place in the creation of plans in each prison.

Not all EDMs created at Stage 3 are relevant and applicable to all establishments and it is not our intention to prevent prisons from progressing to Stage 2 by imposing overly bureaucratic and prescriptive processes in relation to Stage 3 EDM roll out. This said PGDs and Governors will need to be clear about what a reasonable level of EDM delivery is, tailored to suit individual cohorts and circumstances and that a defensible level of consistency of delivery across the system as a whole is achieved. Even as we progress to Stage 2 delivery we will need a clear fall-back position at Stage 3 in every prison. You will note from the guidance that the expectation is that Governors/Directors present a workable plan for PGD sign off which outlines Stage 3 delivery and that this sign off takes place before establishments transition to Stage 2 via existing Gold arrangements.

Regimes in Stage 2 will build on the recovery process in Stage 3 but will give Governors/Directors greater freedom to make locally risk assessed decisions about their regimes which suit the needs of the local population and staffing levels.

Operational Guidance during COVID-19 continues to be maintained and establishments should utilise this guidance as well as UK Government, Wales Government and Public Health England / Wales guidance when re-establishing different regime elements.

The below joint letter from the Director General of Prisons, NHSE/I Director of Health and Justice and PHE Criminal Justice Manager emphasises the importance of partnership working with health colleague during the ongoing recovery process. Whilst the Guidance applies to England and Wales, this letter is only applicable to England.



The updated guidance for stage two is attached to this email and will be loaded onto the Operational Guidance platform later today.



Due to compatibility issues between Quantum and other users with Office 365, the embedded documents from the guidance have also been included in the below zip file. If there are any issues opening embedded documents, please use those in the zip file.



The guidance for Stage 2 have been created in conjunction with recognised trade unions and health partners and also follows feedback from the operational line. We have attached a document outlining this feedback and how that has informed our thinking.



There are also a suite of templates and a core script to help you communicate this change with your staff and residents. You will find additional procedurally just material which explains different stages of recovery [here](https://hmppsintranet.org.uk/resources/).



Please contact the COVID-19 Regimes mailbox ([COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk)) with any questions or comments.

Thank you

Andy Rogers