THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE DOCUEMNTS MENTIONED IN THE LETTER, PLEASE CONTACT Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

Date: 18th June 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

Thank you for everything you are doing to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. As mentioned last week we are starting to see an increase in COVID cases in Sefton and because of this, the Government has announced that Sefton, along with the rest of the Liverpool City Region’s boroughs and other parts of the country will be receiving additional support to help identify and prevent the spread of COVID Delta variant, which was first identified in India. You can [read more about this additional support in the following My Sefton news article](https://mysefton.co.uk/2021/06/14/government-announces-extra-covid-support-for-city-region/).

Additional support that can be deployed rapidly can include surge testing, tracing, isolation support and maximising vaccine uptake. Testing, isolation and vaccinations will help suppress and control the spread of the virus and variants in both the short and longer term, when used in combination with people following existing guidance such as hands, face, space and fresh air. It is also important to continue following the good infection, prevention and control processes you have and report any outbreaks to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

Extra guidance included as part of the enhanced support package, include minimising travel in and out of the affected areas, to keep loved ones and communities safe.

These are the proactive steps that you can strongly encourage your colleagues to take:

•Get vaccinated

•Get tested even if you don't have symptoms and even if you have had one or two doses of the vaccine

•Self-isolate if positive and if eligible, access the available financial support to help them do this

•Be cautious when meeting others who are not in your household

•Minimise travel

We understand that some people may find self-isolating challenging. Here is some myth-busting which you may find useful?

MYTH: I must self-isolate for 14 days

FACT: You only need to do so for 10 days, starting the day after

your test or close contact.

MYTH: I don’t have to self-isolate if I’m vaccinated

FACT: You must self-isolate even if you’ve had the

vaccine or have had coronavirus before.

MYTH: If my test result is negative, I can stop self

isolating

FACT: Unless you’re taking part in a pilot scheme, you

must continue to self-isolate

We have attached a flyer, that can be printed and put up in key locations or shared with your contacts & networks via email. In addition, if you have social media channels, we have attached artwork and a supporting social media schedule to help you distribute these messages further.

We have also attached a poster for you, which you may wish to download and attach to your noticeboard. The care worker poster is available in 13 other languages. If you have another language need, please contact Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

For useful information on COVID testing, including the different types of test and where to get them, [visit the dedicated testing page on the Sefton Council website](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-testing/coronavirus-testing/) Also [find out about self-isolating when you have your test or have symptoms](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/self-isolate) while [useful info on vaccinations can also be found in our dedicated Covid-19 webpages](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-vaccinations/)

Last week we shared with you some information about the Heatwave Plan and some associated resources/links. To support this, there are two Heatwave Planning presentations: one for care homes and one for community providers.

We have also recently shared information on The Greater Manchester Infection Prevention & Control Cell webinar, which is being held on **Tuesday 29th June 2021, 2pm – 4pm.**

Topics for discussion will include the following:

- Nutrition and Hydration ([N&H Week | Nutrition and Hydration Week](https://nutritionandhydrationweek.co.uk/))

- Mental Capacity Act and deprivation of liberty safeguards during Covid-19

- Covid-19 Testing and Covid-19 Vaccination update

- Speaker Q&A

Please find attached a flyer which includes information on how to book onto the webinar.

We would like to remind you that it is not too late to register your interest for the dedicated Microsoft Teams Q&A vaccine session, being led by Dr Leonard on the 23rd June at 2.00pm. If you and your staff would like to participate in the above session could you please register your interest by emailing margi.moffit@southseftonccg.nhs.uk and let us know of any questions or concerns you would like addressed.

Information for Care Homes

We are pleased to be able to report that we should have completed 2nd vaccinations by July. There will of course be allowances for any ‘mop-up’ that is needed due to residents not having had their vaccine for some reason.

We want to be able to support staff to get the vaccine if they haven’t had it yet. The Southport Hub will be open for a short period, but the Maghull and North Park Hubs have now closed.

Care Home staff are encouraged to access vaccinations by using the National Booking system, [Book or manage your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/). we have been advised that there are plenty of appointments and supplies of Pfizer vaccine available at Aintree hospital 7 days a week. The booking system will allow people to select the option to book at any hub within 60 miles radius, inclusive of Aintree. If there are any issues, individuals can choose to declare themselves as Health Care Workers to ensure that option becomes available to them. There are of course the local pharmacies where staff can book a vaccine.

You may be aware of the news this week about mandatory vaccinations for CQC registered care homes, from October 2021 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents>. We support the government’s position on vaccination of staff in care homes however we recognise the local challenges for you. If you wish to discuss any concerns about applying the guidance please let us know. We will need to arrange meetings for care homes who have numbers of unvaccinated staff and addressing the requirements*.* Please update your Business Continuity Plans in response to this news and discuss the issue with your staff.

There is no succinct guidance regarding trades visitors to the care home setting. Providers are best placed to design arrangements that take account of the needs of their residents and what is possible within the layout and facilities within the home. In this context, the provider is advised to develop a dynamic risk assessment that assesses how the care home can best manage visits safely, and how this is delivered for trades people entering and working in this setting. More suggestions regarding managing trades visitors are included in the attached document.

Please continue to contact commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk with your named contact information for the flu vaccinations.

The Care Provider Alliance have a dedicated Enhanced Health in Care Home Guide for Registered Managers and care home staff.

<https://careprovideralliance.org.uk/enhanced-health-in-care-homes-cpa-guide>

It was agreed on the Care Home Strategic Call this week that the calls will move to monthly calls from now on. Please be assured that if there is an urgent issue, we will set up a meeting with you, outside of the monthly meetings.

From us, all the Health and Care partners and Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, we would like to thank you and your staff once again for all your hard work and everything you are doing at this time.

Yours sincerely



Deborah Butcher

Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Fiona Taylor

Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs