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

Date: 25th June 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

Thank you for everything you are doing to help prevent transmission of COVID-19. Please continue to report any outbreaks to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

We would like to remind you that the national booking service for health and social care workers has now reopened to allow people to book onto specific vaccine appointments at the larger vaccination centres. It is important for staff to go for their second vaccine to have full protection.

Over recent months we have shared information and resources with you about the Covid-19 vaccination and to support decisions about the vaccine. They can also be found at this link: <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/social-care-provider-information/covid-19-vaccination-information/>

We know that there may be social care staff who are hesitant about having the vaccine because of concerns around fertility/pregnancy. Please find below links to the following resources:

* [A guide to COVID-19 vaccination – All women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant or breastfeeding Version 4 (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/980176/PHE_11920_COVID-19_vaccination_pregnancy_v4.pdf)
* [Covid19 Vaccines FAQs.pdf (britishfertilitysociety.org.uk)](https://www.britishfertilitysociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Covid19-Vaccines-FAQ-1_3.pdf)
* An info sheet and decision aid (Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecology) [Combined info sheet and decision aid 28.05.2021 (rcog.org.uk)](https://www.rcog.org.uk/globalassets/documents/guidelines/2021-02-24-combined-info-sheet-and-decision-aid.pdf)

Details about the vaccines, booking and video link included about how the vaccine works, can be found here: [Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/) A [series of cards](https://clicktime.symantec.com/37ScK2aLTb6Gd4Hu3R9ChnN6H2?u=https%3A%2F%2Fadass.us9.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D83b2aa68490f97e9418043993%26id%3D116fefa3a7%26e%3D6de0077c7b), for those interested in developing activities and interventions to increase vaccine uptake across different communities, contains contextual information, hesitancy insights, barriers and enablers to vaccination and helpful resources.

Sefton is still an enhanced area for support and we would like to remind you that you can find 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)

Please find attached a customer notice in connection to complaints made about PFF healthcare aprons SKU APRN0012. These complaints have been identified as from the batches A351 2020,

A352 2020 and A363 2020.

Recommended action:

* We ask that a review of any stock of this brand be undertaken and the batches as identified above be isolated and quarantined for collection.
* Conduct a review of stock held in order to identify if the stated batches are within your inventory. Share this letter with all service providers that receive these products and ensure they also carry out a stock review. If the batches as stated are identified, please contact; [Mark.Foulger@pffhealth.uk.com](mailto:Mark.Foulger@pffhealth.uk.com).
* The company will then arrange collection and replacement of affected stock. This stock exchange must be identified and contact made with the provider between 22nd June and 6th July. This 2-week window has been facilitated by PFF and must run only within these allocated dates. If stock is found following these dates, then please contact: [productqueries@ppeenquiries.com](mailto:productqueries@ppeenquiries.com)

**ICF / Rapid test 21 Grant - Reminder**

Many of you will have received a grant allocation from the Infection Control / Rapid Test 2021.

This grant period ran from 1st April and is due to expire on 30th June and, as per grant conditions, you will be required to submit a return showing your expenditure for the whole period.

A final grant template will be produced and sent to you early July with a completion date of Friday 16th July. Thank you in advance for your assistance in meeting this deadline.

Information for Care Homes

We are really pleased to report that the vaccine uptake is increasing. The Capacity Tracker reflects 95.6% 1st dose for resident and 90.7% 2nd dose, this is a rise from 82.4% and 70.8% this time last week. We are also seeing a small rise in the number of social care staff vaccinations. We know we’ve all been working hard to focus on this and thank you for your continued efforts.

We wish to remind you that if you are offering respiratory protective equipment (RPE), of which FFP2 are included in this categorisation, then there is very clear guidance that the employer needs to complete a face fit test for the employee.

The latest Royal College of Nursing guidance states that FFP3 and FFP2 face masks are types of tight fitting respiratory protective equipment that provide a higher level of respiratory protection than surgical face masks.  Their safety is dependent on wearers undergoing a fit test, to ensure that there is an adequate personal fit and seal to protect the wearer from fine aerosols containing virus particles.

There are two fit test methods, qualitative and quantitative:

* Qualitative fit testing is a pass/fail test based on the wearer’s subjective assessment of any leakage through the face seal region by detecting the introduction of bitter- or sweet-tasting aerosol as a test agent.
* Quantitative fit testing, which involves ambient particle counting or controlled negative pressure measurements, should be used as an alternative to test the adequacy of the respirator.

Where national Infection Prevention and Control Guidance and/or local risk assessments indicate that FFP3 or FFP2 levels of protection are required, a fit test must be carried out prior to first wearing a new model of FFP3 or FFP2 mask. Fit tests must also be carried out whenever there is a change to the type or model or whenever there is a change in circumstances of the wearer that could alter the fit of the mask e.g. weight loss or gain or substantial dental work.

Fit testing must be carried out by a competent person as described by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). You can find further guidance from the HSE here - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg479.htm>. If you would like to access local fit-testing, please email [margi.moffitt@southseftonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:margi.moffitt@southseftonccg.nhs.uk)

There is updated guidance for care home visiting during the pandemic. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes> This guidance applies to residential care homes and care home residents of all ages and applies from 21 June 2021 and replaces previous guidance on care home visiting.

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