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

Date: 2nd July 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 single positive cases or outbreaks to the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036.

We would also like to thank those that attended Dr Leonard’s Vaccine Q&A session last week. Dr Leonard was keen to share that there is limited clinical reason why people shouldn’t have the vaccine and the risks of having the vaccine are low against the risks of COVID-19. It’s also important to know the vaccination status of your agency staff and remember that even if people you provide care and support for have been vaccinated and have had both jabs, they can still be infected and the best way of limiting this is for social care staff to have both vaccines to have full protection.

We hold a large stock of FFP3 and FFP2 masks. If any providers would benefit from additional masks, please email [Emergencyppe@Sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Emergencyppe@Sefton.gov.uk) with your requested amount and we can arrange collection. These masks should only be used when AGP procedures are required and anyone using these masks must be fit-tested, prior to wearing the 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. If you would like to access local fit-testing, please email [margi.moffitt@southseftonccg.nhs.uk](mailto:margi.moffitt@southseftonccg.nhs.uk)

We would kindly remind you to update the Capacity Tracker daily please, to enable us to have the most up-to-date figures for vaccine levels, staff absence, vacancy levels etc.

There are some important changes to the Capacity Tracker, scheduled to take place on Monday 5th July. The information leaflet provides further details.

**Infection Control / Rapid Test 2021**

Many of you will have received funding from the ICF / Rapid test 2021 funding allocated for April to June 2021. The final return (to show your expenditure April – June) was due to be sent out imminently with a return date of 16th July. We have received some information this week that DHSC expect to extend the grant (and provide additional funding) to the end of September. We do not know what additional allocations will be at this stage or frequency of future returns but will keep you informed.

We will still send out a template for April – June spend for completion by the 16th July, but this will not be your final return. We would encourage you to return this promptly as failure to do so may delay future grant payments to you.

Information for Community Support Providers

This week, we have sent a letter direct to providers informing them of the 2021/22 fee decision that will come into effect from 1st April 2021. If you haven’t received your letter, please contact [commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk)

Information for Care Homes

We are really pleased to report that all residents have been offered their second vaccine. We are still able to provide the vaccine to any resident who hasn’t been able to have their second vaccine, due to ill health or being in hospital, and we will be in touch with you about this in due course.

Southport and Formby and South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups have been asked to supply NHSE with data relating to the number of care home staff vaccinated and the number of those staff not wishing to take up the offer of being vaccinated, and reasons relating to this.  Care Homes will be contacted by either the CCG or the LA, you will only be asked for the above information, you will not be asked to give any personal details. This is a national request and we would appreciate your support in this regard.

The government has published [updated guidance on restricting staff movement](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restricting-workforce-movement-between-care-homes-and-other-care-settings) between care homes and other care settings. This guidance makes clear that routine staff movement should not be taking place. In those limited exceptional circumstances where staff movement is necessary to ensure the delivery of safe care, the guidance provides examples of how to mitigate the risks of this with frequent testing.

We would also like to remind you that 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