Date: 9th July 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

As always, we want to thank you for everything you are doing to continue to keep our vulnerable residents safe and well.

As you are aware COVID -19 cases in the borough are continuing to rise and we are starting to see more outbreaks. Please continue to follow all Infection Control and visiting procedures and contact the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036 for advice and guidance.

Testing is very important to detect new asymptomatic and symptomatic infections early and limit spread. COVID safe work practices help to ensure adequate staffing is available to deliver safe, good quality care.

Lots of people have questions or niggles they want to clear up before going ahead and getting vaccinated. The information provided here COVID 19 Vaccinations (sefton.gov.uk) is based on queries from Sefton residents. You could also ask to have chat with someone at your GP practice. Friendly staff at local vaccination sites are on hand to answer questions on the day and put you at ease.

From the 19th July we will be moving the PPE Hub to the Sefton Community Equipment store from Bootle Town Hall. Requests should still be made via EmergencyPPE@Sefton.gov.uk and collections can be made via the reception of the Community Equipment Store Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm. The Community Equipment store is located at:

Unit 2c

Bechers Drive, Aintree Racecourse Retail & Bus Park

Aintree

Liverpool

L9 5AY

<http://maps.google.co.uk/?q=L9%205AY>

We currently have PPE stock that we can offer to providers if you would like a get of stock to hold on your own premises. If you are interested, please let us know via EmergencyPPE@sefton.gov.uk

If carrying Aerosol Generating Procedures enhanced PPE and fit-testing must be applied to ensure that the masks fit the individual wearer. If you would like to access local fit-testing, please email margi.moffitt@southseftonccg.nhs.uk

Please note that from 12th July 2021 the IPC funding (weekly) visiting questions contained within Capacity Tracker will be updated to reflect current DHSC guidance and make it easier for providers to complete. These changes focus more on visits out of a care home or substance misuse setting and includes a question on how many residents are self-isolating, to help DHSC understand how many visits out of theses settings are considered by providers to be high-risk.

Providers will now be asked about barriers to visiting, regardless of whether they have been able to facilitate visiting over the past 7 days. The options for highlighting the burdens and / or barriers being experienced with visiting have also been updated to help DHSC better understand how guidance is impacting providers.

Responses to these updated questions will help the understanding around how the guidance is being implemented to inform any future updates and help DHSC better target support. Further communications will be sent directly to Care Home and Substance Misuse Providers and should be covered on the next Providers National Q & A Session.

If you haven’t had your first or second dose, please consider booking your vaccination as soon as possible. We all must work together to help protect our most vulnerable and ourselves

Book online or call 119 and book or manage your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

Make sure you know what to do to prevent the spread of Coronavirus infection whatever your role and give your support to colleagues to do the same.Here’s some, but not all the current guidance relating to your settings:

[Personal protective equipment (PPE): resource for care workers working in care homes during sustained COVID-19 transmission in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-how-to-work-safely-in-care-homes/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-resource-for-care-workers-working-in-care-homes-during-sustained-covid-19-transmission-in-england)

[COVID-19: how to work safely in domiciliary care in England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-how-to-work-safely-in-domiciliary-care)

[Supported living services during coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-living-services-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/992266/20210609_PPE_guide_for_community_and_social_care_settings.pdf>

**Infection Control 3 / Rapid Test 2021**

The current round of ICF / Rapid Test (April – June) has now ended and you would have been sent a template (Annex B) to record your expenditure. Please note that you need to insert your provider details on the 1st tab which will then prepopulate the grant figures you would be working to on the 2nd tab. This grant return needs to be completed by 16th June - please ensure you can meet these timescales. If you have any queries, please contact paula.gibson@sefton.gov.uk

**Infection Control 4 / Rapid Test**

The DHSC have released additional funding to Sefton (c £1.9M) for Infection Control Fund / Rapid Test funds for the period July – September 21. This equates approximately to an allocation of:

Care Homes - £160 per CQC bed for ICF 4 and £160 for Rapid Test Funding

Community Providers - £50 per service user for services registered in Sefton.

These figures are approximate and will be confirmed when further information is released including Acceptance of grant conditions template and details around returns timescales.

Again, if you have any queries please contact paula.gibson@sefton.gov.uk

Information for Care Homes

Following the Prime Ministers announcement on Monday night about the potential lifting of restrictions on the 19th July, we contacted care homes this week outlining to you what this will mean for your setting and how you work. Because of the sustained transmission in the borough of the dominant variant, we are asking that you please continue to follow the Public Health guidance over the coming months as everyone should assume that they are likely to encounter people with COVID-19 infection in routine workplace settings, within our own families, and within our own community.

The safety of our residents & your team members must continue to be the priority across all settings. It is important for you all to continue to work as using are doing at present and in accordance with the current guidance & Health and Safety Risk assessments that are in place until further notice

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