Date: 30th 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. Please continue to follow all Infection Control and visiting guidance. Please contact the Community Infection Control Team on 0151 295 3036 for advice and guidance.

The DHSC held a Transparent Mask event in June, discussing several future possibilities regarding the use of such items, however, there are **currently no transparent face masks that meet the EN14683 standard** despite claims to the contrary.  Products which are not fully compliant with the Technical Specification should not be used within the health and social care sector. We therefore remind all our providers to please use the guidance relating to PPE use in your sector. Please note that visors cannot be used on their own but must be used in conjunction with a Type IIR mask. Eye protection/ visors should not be worn instead of a mask

<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>

The Medicines and Healthcare produces Regulatory Agency are warning the public and healthcare professionals to take care when purchasing infrared thermometers online and to familiarise themselves with warning signs for poor quality products. There has been an increase in the number of unreliable infrared thermometers which are available in the UK and are highlighting that all infrared thermometers, like all medical devices fit for sale on the UK market, will carry a distinct CE or UKCA mark. For more information, please visit: [https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/regulator-warns-against-purchasing-inaccurate-infrared-thermometers?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=4d78c0e4-621d-490e-97aa-dbf3aaca5c82&utm_content=daily)

At the Care Home call this week Danielle Pritchard attended from the Cheshire & Merseyside Resilience Hub to share information about the Psychological support available and the ways that individual staff and teams can access the support. They are also available to attend care homes to explain the offer and carry out some relaxation and mindfulness sessions for you and your teams. More information can be found attached to this letter or at <https://wwwcheshiremerseyresiliencehub.nhs.uk> or by contacting [Danielle.pritchard@merseycare.nhs.uk](mailto:Danielle.pritchard@merseycare.nhs.uk)

Information for Care Homes

We wrote to you earlier this week as ADASS has confirmed that the vaccinations compulsory period has now started for Care Home Staff. The vaccination as a condition of deployment regulations have been signed and the 16-week grace period began on **Thursday 22th July**. This means that the regulations will come into force on Thursday 11th November. For those beginning their vaccination journey, they must have their first dose by Thursday 16th September to allow the eight-week gap between doses and ensure they are fully vaccinated by Thursday 11 November.

If staff haven’t had their 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))

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/covid-19-in-sefton/covid-19-vaccinations/>

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.

The [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings) was updated on the 22nd July and includes updated isolation guidance which comes into effect when there are exceptional circumstances only . We recommend that you activate your Business Continuity Plan and notify [contractsandcommissioning@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:contractsandcommissioning@sefton.gov.uk), where we can provide bespoke support as a system as your first point of call .  This must be done immediately.  Isolation cannot be considered if you are dealing with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) or working with other staff members who are also in this category. If the staff member is isolating because they are a contact of a positive of case in their household and has been contacted by Test & Trace and told to isolate for 10 days, they cannot work under any circumstances. The staff member must also have received both COVID vaccinations but must only be permitted to work and isolate when their daily duties are completed.

We are also collating any questions you may have about this to share with our Cheshire & Merseyside colleagues.  If you do have a question, please email [Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk).

**Support for the Deterioration Tool Survey in Care Homes.**

The National Patient Safety Team’s Managing Deterioration Safety Improvement Programme, working with the Academic Health Science Networks and Patient Safety Collaboratives, has recently circulated a Deterioration Tool Survey on the Care Homes Capacity Tracker.

This survey will help the team to understand the following:

* Numbers of care homes that are already using tools to spot when their residents are becoming unwell.
* Which types of tools are being used in relation to deterioration and personalised care and support planning, and how often they are used?
* Where more support is needed?

You can find more information about different types of deterioration and structured communication tools (including free videos and e-learning resources) on the [Care homes | AHSN Network](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=ahsnnetwork.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYWhzbm5ldHdvcmsuY29tL2Fib3V0LWFjYWRlbWljLWhlYWx0aC1zY2llbmNlLW5ldHdvcmtzL3BhdGllbnQtc2FmZXR5L2NhcmVob21lc2FmZXR5&i=NjA0Nzc4NjMzMmI5MDAwZTg3MGJiMjI2&t=SUpIelc2Qjl4TDlWUkFjN1BEUjErUkU0YzhFN2RtcmpsZFBXZElWRS95VT0=&h=fa4aae2c425749db9eccdcc417a18558) page.

We encourage care homes to complete the Deterioration Tools Survey to inform what more help is needed and what type of free support can be provided.

[In a recent report,](https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/improved-oversight-reform-needed-pressures-pandemic-shine-light-inconsistent) the CQC has found that during the pandemic there has been an increase in the number of Do Not Resituate Orders that may not always of involved people in discussions about the orders; potentially breaching human rights and equality legislation. We would ask that you read the report and consider the findings in the attached summary document. Please contact [dols@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:dols@sefton.gov.uk) if you require further advice or support.

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