PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. FOR ANY ATTACHMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

Date: 20th August 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.

As you may be aware, from 16 August, the isolation requirements for fully vaccinated people identified as a contact of a COVID-19 case in England have changed.

Fully vaccinated means that you have been vaccinated with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the recommended doses of that vaccine.

* Requirements for fully vaccinated staff who are identified as contacts of a case of COVID-19 are detailed in guidance on the [management of staff and exposed patients and residents](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-management-of-exposed-healthcare-workers-and-patients-in-hospital-settings).
* Requirements for fully vaccinated residents who are identified as contacts of a case of COVID-19 are detailed in [guidance on admission and care of residents in a care home](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes).
* Requirements for fully vaccinated essential care givers who are identified as contacts of a case of COVID-19 are detailed in [guidance on visiting arrangements to care homes](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus).

Please find attached a summary guidance sheet for care settings, which includes links to guidance relating to vaccinations and isolation, operational guidance and visiting. Please ensure that you have read the guidance in full, amended risk assessments appropriately for residents and your setting, and all staff are implementing the changes with immediate effect.

Due to the vulnerability of residents in care home settings, there is no change to infection control and PPE advice. As a reminder, requests for emergency PPE 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>

Information for Care Homes

Last week we shared some information with you from the Holistic Harmonies Community Interest Group in connection to their Musical Interaction offer to embed music and movement into the lives of your staff and residents. They would like to thank the care homes who have shown an interest in this and for responding and look forward to working with you.

For more information, please contact Rachel at: rachel@holistic-harmonies.com or telephone 07747446048.

**Care Home Staff Mandatory Vaccinations**

As part of its ongoing work on analysing the care home market, especially in terms of viability, Sefton are currently reviewing data on factors such as care home vacancies and staff vaccination numbers, given the imminent implementation of legislation relating to mandatory vaccinations for care home staff.

Where it has been identified that care homes could face viability issues, then they will be contacted directly to discuss their business continuity plans and the steps they are taking to address issues such as low vaccination uptake of their staff.

As the 11th November 2021 date draws closer, Sefton will also be reviewing its operational guidance to Practitioners and its communications with Service User and their Families/Advocates in terms of the availability of care home placements, considering factors such as staff vaccination rates within individual homes.

In order to support this work, it is imperative that care homes ensure that they are regularly updating the Capacity Tracker with data on vacancies and vaccination uptake levels. Where it has been identified that the Capacity Tracker is not being updated then those care homes will be contacted regarding updating this data, as without it, Sefton cannot accurately assess a care homes current situation and position, with respect to making future placements to that home.

Completion of the Capacity Tracker is also a requirement of the Grant Conditions for funding such as the Infection Control Fund and care homes need to ensure that the system is updated so that Sefton does not have to look at recovery of any funding paid out to date and eligibility for any future further funding it not affected.

It is also mandatory for all staff going into care homes to have had their vaccine and care homes are advised to see the relevant evidence of this.

**Restore 2 training**

Care Homes can book onto Training via the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/restore-2-online-training-session-tickets-103421153454>

* The session tends to be 1-1.5 hours and is delivered virtually via Zoom
* We advocate that Care Home Managers, Deputies and a number of nominated ‘Safety Champions’ attend – following which they are then required to cascade to the Home via a train the trainer approach
* Here is a link to a short video giving an overview of Restore2: <https://youtu.be/JP1slWXKQFc> which might be helpful to include as part of any correspondence

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.

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