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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 is still prevalent in Sefton and to help prevent transmission and outbreaks, it is important to be vaccinated; either to get a first or second jab, to protect yourselves, family, colleagues, and people you care for.

The Seaforth Vaccination site is open for drop in vaccinations Tuesday -Saturday 10.00am till 6.00pm and they are using both the Astra Zeneca and Pfizer vaccines.

For pregnant carers or those planning pregnancy, we can an appreciate that they may be apprehensive, but there is plenty of evidence now about the safety information about vaccinating pregnant women. Lots of information and videos on this link from Royal College of Obstetrics [Vaccination (rcog.org.uk)](https://www.rcog.org.uk/covid-vaccine)

Please continue to follow all Infection Control and visiting guidance for your setting. Reporting of a single, or more positive swabs in your setting is vitally important, as is any other type of infection.

In the event of a positive LFD or PCR test result for your staff or residents/service users please contact the Community Infection Control Team immediately by ringing them on 0151 295 3036 or email infection.controlteam@merseycare.nhs.uk during normal Monday to Friday working hours 9.00am-5.00pm. Outside of these hours, please contact PHE on 0344 225 0562 – Option 1

We have received some guidance from Public Health England (PHE) regarding flat packed aprons, following their last Q&A session.

PHE have provided some advice to mitigate any potential contamination risk associated with the flat packed aprons, which may arise from storage/ access etc. If they have an effective dispenser this would be preferable but if no effective dispenser is available, it is better, on receipt of the pack, to have someone who has washed their hands properly and donned a clean apron themselves to clean a surface, lay the box of aprons down and fold them up one by one into a suitable container e.g. drawer stack or lidded box. That way the aprons are separated in a controlled environment rather than when someone is busy and quickly grabbing one.

Aprons on a roll are now available on the PPE Portal, however for those with have a large supply of flat packed aprons to use then the above advice can be followed to help mitigate any risks of cross contamination.

If you have any questions about using the PPE Portal, you can contact the customer services team on 0800 876 6802 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week. If you are experiencing any issues that the customer services team haven't been able to resolve, please get in touch with us at ppe-requests@dhsc.gov.uk and they will work with you to find a solution.

We would also like to remind you of the importance of storing and disposing of your PPE correctly. This can help prevent outbreaks and failing the PPE and Infection, Prevention Control (IPC) audits carried out by CQC and the IPC Team.

The Capacity Tracker programme have been asked to undertake a piece of work around Provider Engagement. If you have been a provider that has been using the Capacity Tracker, we would be grateful if you can complete the survey at the link below. It should take a max of **1 minute** to complete - the closing date is **Friday 17th September.**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C5QLH82>

We would like to remind you that the Liverpool City Region are hosting an event to support Care Homes and Home Care in the region with current staffing challenges you may find it helpful to join via MS Teams. The meeting is scheduled for the **14th September 1 – 2 pm,** (Care Homes / Home Care) and can be accessed using this link:

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MTdmYTdkYWItNmNkYS00MTgxLWFkOTUtMGRiZmI0Zjc5OThh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22dcdb1ea5-3b10-49a2-bf8f-5fd59edcd762%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%228c3d8ae3-9ebf-447d-915e-827aa2cdfd49%22%7d)

**Information for Care Homes**

We have written to care homes this week in connection to the Channel 4 drama called Help. which is due to be broadcast on the 16th September. *Help* features Jodie Comer as Sarah, a young care home worker and Stephen Graham as her patient It is set in a Liverpool care home and the two-hour drama covers the period around March 2020, and the arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic.

We are aware that this is an important story that needs to be told but it could bring back distressing memories and emotions for people who were working so hard to care for residents at the time in what could be traumatic conditions with little information.

We wanted to let care home workers who are affected by watching this drama, that help, and support is available to them and the letter included details of this support and resources. If you would like more information on the support available, please email commissioninandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk.

We would like to raise that all system partners are keen to continue to work together to facilitate safe discharges where ever possible and in the interest of the individual to ensure that the Service User can return to their existing placement. This should be done so in line with contents of the [Admission and care of residents in a care home during COVID-19 guidance](Admission%20and%20care%20of%20residents%20in%20a%20care%20home%20during%20COVID-19%20-%20GOV.UK%20%28www.gov.uk%29) which was updated on the 17th August. If you would like to talk through any concerns around this, please remember our IPC team are there to support any infection control queries you may have and please do raise with your contracts officer if there is anything we can do to support.

Thank you to those colleagues for attending the Greater Manchester IPC webinar for care homes on 31st August. As always, we hope you found this session informative and helpful.

A link to the full webinar recording can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/CPyGHnCypIk>

Supporting documents are also attached as follows:

* Speaker presentation slides
* Q&A from the webinar recording (embedded links to the webinar for each question discussed)
* Partners in Care resources to support meaningful visits

Please find below the links to earlier webinar recordings which are available to view on-line. Please feel free to share with your colleagues.

**Please note**: National/local guidance referenced in previous webinars may have updated since the record was made. Please check with your local IPC team for latest guidance.

* [IPC COVID-19 and beyond](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BsPY8b6nf4&feature=youtu.be) (recorded 04/09/20)
* [Winter preparedness in 2020](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeK0zfQ7u1o&feature=youtu.be) (recorded 04/11/20)
* [Supporting care home residents and staff](https://youtu.be/HoHJ6rnJPAI) (recorded 08/12/20)
* [Testing arrangements for Care Homes and vaccination myth busting](https://youtu.be/4ejIc1oBMKU)  (recorded 19/01/21)
* [A Day in the Life of a Care Home](https://youtu.be/vwBA2jHmiTs) (recorded 23/02/21)
* [Visiting guidance, outbreak testing and staying COVID-secure - #VaccineHero campaign](https://youtu.be/VauD3ykMSqA) (recorded 30/03/21)
* [Auditing IPC practice, Nutrition & Hydration, Oral health care, vaccination and visiting updates](https://youtu.be/fk-vG2zx41E) (recorded 27/04/21)
* [Variants of Concern, low level PCR results, Visiting out of home](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NpnFR_gKD4) (recorded 25/05/21)
* [Vaccination and testing update, Mental Capacity Act and DoLS, nutrition & hydration](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNmrrlNZm44) (Recorded 29/06/21)
* [Silver linings during COVID 19 - Featuring presentation from Fernlea and CQC update](https://youtu.be/KOBBFMCcvC0) (recorded 27/07/21)

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



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Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Fiona Taylor

Chief Officer, NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs