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THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE DOCUMENTS REFERENCED, PLEASE CONTACT Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

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.

We would be grateful if you could please continue to promote to your staff teams how they can be vaccinated, if they still haven’t had a vaccine and wish to do so. 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. You can find times and locations for other walk-in sites across Sefton and beyond on the [NHS website.](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/)

Please find attached a flyer advertising the walk-in COVID vaccination service. We are asking for your support in helping promote the national walk-in page to raise awareness all our walk-in sites in Sefton. You can access the national site here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

Please also find attached the September guidance summary sheet. 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. Guidance does change rapidly – please ensure that you continually review the guidance for your setting.

We are aware that some Local Authorities and Local Resilience Forums mentioned that there has been an issue with XL gloves not appearing on the PPE Portal. We would like to reassure you that this has been resolved and we do not expect this to happen again in the future. If there is an issue with an item on the PPE Portal and you are considering purchasing this item because of this, please get in touch with **ppe-requests@dhsc.gov.uk**before you do this. We may be able to arrange delivery of this item via our urgent order system.

We have been asked to share some information on behalf of the [**Cheshire & Merseyside Resilience Hub**](https://cheshiremerseyresiliencehub.nhs.uk/) with information about their service.

Newsletter: The Cheshire & Merseyside Resilience Hub have been working hard behind the scenes to update their website with lots of useful information for services and organisations. – They have also created an online newsletter to go alongside the website. This is now complete and the newsletter can be accessed here: <https://sway.office.com/TzortkKbNeE9F7A6?ref=Link> This is done via Microsoft Sway and users don’t have to log in to view.

Screensavers: The Resilience Hub have been contacted by numerous partners who have asked for screensavers that could be utilised on their systems and to ensure the message gets out to staff members about the Resilience Hub. Please see attached 2 versions. (fixed sized & full) for you to display on your systems.

EAP & Critical Care Leads:The Resilience Hub are currently collating information on EAP Leads (Employee Assistance Programme) and Critical Care Leads within the footprint for on-going projects within the hub. If your organisation has any of these, please provide their contact details so they can be included in future deliverables for the project.

Social Media: The Resilience Hub are encouraging organisations to follow us/like the Resilience Hub page to ensure the messages they put out, reach staff members. You can like their facebook page: [@CMResiliencehub](https://www.facebook.com/CMResilienceHub) and can follow their twitter page: [@CMResilienceHub](https://twitter.com/CMResilienceHub)

If you require a printable version of the newsletter for team boards, the screensavers in a different size or contact details for the Employee Assistance Programme/Critical Care Leads, please contact Lee.Macneall@merseycare.nhs.uk.

**DHSC Consultation - Making vaccination a condition of deployment in the health and wider social care sector within England only.**

The Department of Health and Social Care is now seeking views on whether to extend vaccination requirements to other health and care settings for COVID-19 and for flu. Recent research has shown people infected with both flu and COVID-19 are more than twice as likely to die as someone with COVID-19 alone and nearly six times more likely than those with neither flu nor COVID-19.

The consultation proposes that, if introduced, requirements would apply to frontline health and care workers– those with face-to face contact with patients and clients though the delivery of services as part of a CQC regulated activity. It would mean only those workers that are vaccinated could be deployed (or those with a legitimate medical exemption) to deliver those services.

These are complex and important issues and the consultation seeks to gather a wide range of perspectives from the public and across the health and care sectors about whether such requirements should be introduced and how they could be implemented.

The easiest way to participate is by completing [the survey](https://consultations.dhsc.gov.uk/612f51cbbf327c44607a7bb9)

We would like to remind you that the Capacity Tracker survey closes today (17th September) at the Please do take the time to complete it at the link below. It should take a max of **1 minute** to complete.

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

Information for Care Homes

The Department of Health and Social Care has been working as quickly as possible to ensure that people who are not able to get the vaccine for medical reasons are not disadvantaged.

On a temporary basis, from the 15th September, people working or volunteering in care homes who have a medical reason why they are unable to have a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to self-certify that they meet the medical exemption criteria, using the forms attached to this letter.

Care home workers who are exempt will need to sign the form and give this to their employer as proof of their temporary exemption status. This temporary self-certification process has been introduced for a short period prior to the launch of the new NHS COVID Pass system which will go live imminently.

Please find below the following three **important documents**:

* Form for medical exemptions
* Form for people vaccinated abroad
* Letter on temporary exemptions process (You may have received the letter direct this week, but we have attached it for you, for ease).

The Enhanced Health in Care Homes (EHCH) Team is commissioned by Southport and Primary Care Network (PCN) to provide the National Framework for EHCH, as part of PCN Directed Enhanced Services.

The EHCH team includes clinical and non-clinical staff. The Team works proactively with care home residents to support health and wellbeing. We work collaboratively with relatives, care workers, and a range of other health and social care professionals to ensure that the needs and preferences of individual residents are met.

Please find attached a poster advertising the team, the contacts and their details and how to get in touch if you have a query.

**Capacity Tracker – Urgent Action Required**

It is imperative that care homes ensure that they update the Capacity Tracker this week. This is because we will be analysing the data early next week to get an updated position on the vaccination status within care homes, which in turn then supports with assessments of viability and which homes we may need to contact to discuss any issues they are experiencing with staff vaccinations and their business continuity plans.

The requirement to complete the Capacity Tracker remains an important one, also linked to eligibility for funding such as the Infection Control Fund.

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