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THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY OF THE ATTACHMENTS MENTIONED, PLEASE EMAIL Jayne.vincent@sefton.gov.uk

Date: 1st October 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 we approach winter and the flu season, along with rising cases of COVID-19, Public Health England (PHE) have developed a communications toolkit to provide information and advice to social care workers in all care settings in England about the flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster.

Social care workers are eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster vaccine to help protect themselves and the people they care for this winter. These vaccines are the best protection for you and for those you care for from these deadly viruses and help save lives.

In Sefton, the flu vaccination programme it currently being planned and will be communicated as soon as information is available for providers. For Southport & Formby, care homes have been sent the attached word document to complete and return to mcn-tr.schwb-vacc@nhs.net

Thank you to those who have returned the form and if you have still to do so, we ask that this is done as a matter of urgency. Please note that staff must have a GP registered in Sefton.

Please note that staff must have a GP registered in Sefton. The COVID-19 booster vaccine will be available to social care staff after 180 days after their second vaccine and can be booked using the NHS Covid-19 Vaccination National Booking Service [[LINK](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination)] The Booster vaccine will be the Pfizer vaccine and it is compatible for anyone who had the Astra Zeneca vaccine for their first two doses. We will send more information on this in the coming weeks.

Please find attached the Communications Toolkit which has access to more information and resources for you to share with your staff teams to encourage take up of COVID-19 Booster and flu vaccines. Additional resources can be found here: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/92-health-and-social-care-workers-winter-vaccinations-2021/resources>

Last week the Greater Manchester Infection Prevention Control Webinar took place which covered Silver linings, Covid-19 update and Palliative and End of Life Care. We will be able to share information on the webinar when available. In the meantime, the links embedded in the 28th September agenda (attached) of previous webinars maybe of interest to you?

**Infection Control Grant 4 / Testing Grant**

The current round of ICF / Testing covers the period 1st July- 30th September. A template for final returns will be issued to you next week, along with a short video to help with completion. The deadline to complete the returns will be 15th October 2021.

On the 30th September, an announcement was made that ICF funding would continue to March 2022. We do not have any details around specific allocations yet, but we will keep you informed.

Information for Care Homes

Outbreaks in care homes are still rising and both staff and residents are being infected. Please continue to report any outbreaks to the Infection Control Team by ringing them on 0151 295 3036 or email infection.controlteam@merseycare.nhs.uk during normal Monday to Friday working hours 9am-5pm or outside of these hours at weekends/ evenings and Bank Holidays – please contact PHE on 0344 225 0562 – Option 1

There is some recent DHSC guidance for care home staff in connection to COVID-19 medical exemptions: proving you are unable to get vaccinated. [The Guidance](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-medical-exemptions-proving-you-are-unable-to-get-vaccinated?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=bb901262-1460-45d8-97fd-9f2dcbf3f01e&utm_content=immediately#the-nhs-covid-pass-for-people-who-are-medically-exempt-from-vaccinations-andor-tests) explains

how to apply for official proof that, for medical reasons, you're unable to be vaccinated and/or tested for COVID-19.

We would like to gently remind you that DoLS referrals should be coming through the [portal](https://seftongovuk.sharepoint.com/%3Af%3A/s/ns-AscOperational/ElaPSm909eZOmHXhIsiMZMIB_RwiJThh6h-83cbyOLVl2w?e=vPSygD) via Sefton website now and not via e-mails.  This helps the team to manage administration tasks better.

Please find attached some information on **Mouth Care Matters in the Community.** They would like to invite you to attend an on-line workshop, which is due to take place on the 3rd November between 4.00 – 5.00pm to launch the new Mouth Care Matters in the Community local good practice guide and provide some guidance regarding the provision of quality mouth care for the people you 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.

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