

 **Deborah Butcher**

**Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health**

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THIS IS A WEB VERSION OF THE LETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY INFORMATION MENTIONED IN THIS LETTER, PLEASE EMAIL Jayne.vincent@hotmail.co.uk

Date: 29th 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.

About a month ago, we emailed you some information about expired covid-19 test kits and what to look out for with the expiry dates in the delivery box and vials. This information has been further updated to include information for vials with different coloured lids. The email sent with this letter explains what this updated information is, with images to help explain. Please check any test kits you have before use, as if the date has expired, they will be void.

Thank you for doing everything you can to encourage your staff team to get vaccinated. There are a few key messages that we would like you to help us share:

* People with two doses of vaccine can still transmit the infection to others
* Do not dismiss winter coughs and fever – get a PCR test
* Adherence to testing and infection control guidance in settings that support vulnerable people remains very important.

We would like to remind you to keep updating the Capacity Tracker which will help us to understand the levels of vaccination uptake and help identify areas where support may be needed.

We informed you last week of the new round of the Infection Control Fund. We are still waiting on the details and the reporting information and as soon as we have further information, we will share this with you.

Information for Care Homes

Please note that if a care home has an outbreak and a patient need to be transferred to a hospital that the home advises the ambulance/receiving hospital about the outbreak. There have been a couple of  instances, in that the home had an outbreak  and then another resident who at that time has not tested positive has needed to go to hospital for something unrelated, a couple of days further down the line they have tested positive which obviously had some impacts on beds/contacts etc.

We would also like to remind you about the **Mouth Care Matters in the Community** on-lineworkshop, which is due to take place on the 3rd November between 4.00 – 5.00pm. This workshop is aimed at Care Home Managers or their Deputy, with a view to sharing the information to their staff teams. Attending this workshop will help care homes to be CQC compliant around oral health. If you would like to attend the workshop, please register an interest by following the link below <https://forms.office.com/r/f2K7DpFCH7>

We are very pleased to let you know that the Joint LA/CCG Care Home Strategy has been ratified by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Strategy sets out our long-term commitment to the Care Home sector. We intend to formally publish the Strategy in the next few weeks and will also send a copy to Providers and wider stakeholders. We look forward to your involvement and engagement in future work to take the Strategy forward.

 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