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Date: 4th February 2022

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

As always thank you to you and your staff for everything you are doing to help protect our most vulnerable residents.

Please continue to report any confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 to Sefton’s Community Infection Control Team (in hours) or Public Health England (out of hours/weekends and bank holidays).

* For Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1700, please contact the community infection control team on 0151 295 3036
* For out of hours, weekends and bank holidays please contact Public Health England’s Health Protection on call support on 0151 434 4819

**Changes to restrictions and testing for adult social care**

Last week, we shared a letter from the Department for Health and Social Care in connection to the changes to visiting and isolation period from the 31st January and the changes to testing that will come into place by the 16th February.

We also shared with you some specific information for care homes, domically care and extra care/supported living (below) and we hope you were able to join the webinars this week? The guidance for each provider group has been updated in late January (the guidance for care home visiting was updated on the 31st January) and the relevant links to the guidance are below too.



[Testing in adult care homes](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-in-adult-care-homes?utm_campaign=ASC+test+26&utm_content=dhsc-mail.co.uk&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Department+of+Health+and+Social+Care&wp-linkindex=2)

[Visiting during COVID19 - update](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visiting-care-homes-during-coronavirus/update-on-policies-for-visiting-arrangements-in-care-homes?utm_campaign=ASC+test+26&utm_content=dhsc-mail.co.uk&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Department+of+Health+and+Social+Care&wp-linkindex=3)

[Testing for home care workers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-homecare-workers-information-for-agencies?utm_campaign=Dom+Care+test+26&utm_content=dhsc-mail.co.uk&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Department+of+Health+and+Social+Care&wp-linkindex=2)

[Testing for Extra Care and Supported Living](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings/testing-service-for-extra-care-and-supported-living-settings?utm_campaign=Wider+ECSL+test+26&utm_content=dhsc-mail.co.uk&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Department+of+Health+and+Social+Care&wp-linkindex=2)

**Grants Updates**

**Infection Control / Testing / Vaccine Grant –** the interim expenditure returns for the period Oct- Jan are due for completion and return by 11 Feb 22. Templates have been sent out for this process. The 2nd tranche payment (40% of grant) will be released after returns have been collated.

**WRRF 1** – payments have been made to Providers who completed an acceptance of grant conditions.

**WRRF 2** – templates have been sent out to Community Providers asking for staff numbers working in Sefton. This information will be collated, and we will explore making payments based on the information.

**Specific Information for Care Homes**

**Care Home Strategic Partnership**

The next meeting of the Care Home Strategic Partnership is Tuesday 8th February, 4.00 – 5.00pm. We do hope you are able to join us.

We would like to express our thanks to Heather Weekes for both chairing the Partnership meeting and working with us on its ongoing development.

**Greater Manchester IPC Webinar**

The Greater Manchester Infection Prevention & Control Cell hosts a monthly webinar for Care Home Managers. The monthly webinars aim to add value to the local support available to care homes, including presentations that share good practice and provide clarification on new / emerging guidance. **A recording of the GMIPC webinar held on 24th January is available:** [**here**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbE96Cs5soc).

Please find attached the accompanying slides. Topics covered in the webinar are listed below – click on the desired topic and you will access at this point in the recording. A webinar Q&A document is also attached which includes questions posted during the webinar and responses from the GM IPC Cell.

Webinar items below (click to view recording):

1. [Care home experiences over Christmas / New Year](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=67)
2. [Top tips for Care Home Registered Managers](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=257)
3. [Keeping up morale in your team](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=758)
4. [Infection Prevention and Control update](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=1722)
	1. [Routine testing in care homes - what constitutes an outbreak](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=1752)
	2. [Outbreak testing](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=2444)
	3. [Testing within 90 days of a positive result](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=2760)
	4. [What is a COVID 19 contact within the care home? (resident / staff isolations)](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=2802)
	5. [Ending isolation and returning to work](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=3209)
	6. [Visiting during periods of isolation / during an outbreak](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=3250)
	7. [Risk assessments discharges and admissions to care homes - GM Framework](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=3678)
5. [Vaccination programme update - focus on C19 Booster programme](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=4368)
6. [Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=4901)
7. [Summary of funding streams for adult social care (IPC & Testing / Omicron Support Fund)](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=5328)
8. [Speaker Q&A](https://youtu.be/FbE96Cs5soc?t=5603)

The next webinar to take place on **Tuesday 8th March, 2pm – 4pm**. An invitation will be circulated shortly. In the meantime, please contact us with any suggestions for topics / themes you would like to see featured. You can contact us via email or using the [online questionnaire](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8GRMV1/).

**North and South Registered Managers Network Meeting**

The next face to face meeting for the Sefton Care Managers will be held on Wednesday 9th Feb at Byng House Nursing Home, The Promenade, Southport, PR8 1QU. 1000-1200 hrs. The network will be very informal but an opportunity to have a chat about all things care related.

Please let Jonathan Cunningham know by emailing him at jonathan@birkdalepark.co.uk if you are able to make it. Limited parking on site or outside on the Promenade. Please conduct an LFT before arrival. Refreshment and cake will be provided.

From us, all the Health and Care partners and Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your staff teams for everything you are doing to support our most vulnerable residents. Your dedication, support and hard work is very much appreciated by us all.

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