

Care and Support Provider Update: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Care and Support Provider,

Please find below a joint letter and links to the attachments from Deborah Butcher, Executive Director of Health and Social Care and Fiona Clark, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton and NHS Southport and Formby CCGs.

The letter includes key information in relation to:

- Guidance and Testing Channels for Care Homes
- A process for swabbing Key Workers who cannot travel to testing sites that is applicable to the whole of Sefton and covers both CCG areas.
- A process for swabbing for Care Home pre-admission. This is also applicable to the whole of Sefton and covers both CCG areas.

We hope you find the guidance and process information useful.

**NEW - Recall of Unidentified Face Masks**

As a precautionary measure, the Council has made the decision to replace boxes of face masks that are not clearly marked up with the IIR label. The notification below shows pictures of the boxes in question. Please contact [emergencyppe@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:emergencyppe@sefton.gov.uk) and we will arrange to collect any boxes you may have and replace with boxes marked IIR.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused but please be reassured that the safety of staff and residents is our primary concern.

Dear Colleagues

Re: Unidentified Face Masks

I am writing to advise you that, as a precautionary measure, the Council has made the decision to replace the face masks shown in the picture below that are not clearly marked with an IIR label with boxes marked with an IIR label.

See picture below:



The company who have provided the masks are a reputable supplier of PPE to a number of local and police authorities and has passed all supplier vetting and suitability checks.

In addition, all due diligence tests have been successfully completed and the Type IIR masks have been provided with the relevant certification checks that indicate that they have met the approved quality standard in relation to the fluid resistance of IIR masks.

However, a concern has been raised that the boxes that these masks have been packaged in do not include the relevant Type IIR labelling.



South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group  
Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group



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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Care Home Partner,

We wanted to write to you again to acknowledge the continued efforts of yourself and your staff team in tackling the COVID-19 crisis and appreciate the challenging times you are working in. Please be reassured that your efforts are helping to protect the most vulnerable.

You will be aware from previous communications to you that the Council, NHS Southport and Formby and NHS South Sefton CCGs and our community health partners are providing support to you so you can continue to provide high quality care and support to our elderly population.

We know from our calls to you there has been several key issues; one of which is financial support as care homes are experiencing additional costs during the crisis. Last week you would have received a financial template for you to complete so we can quantify the costs you have been experiencing. We have also had a telephone call this week between Care Home Owners and colleagues from the Council and CCG to discuss the financial matters in more detail and we are happy to set-up further calls if required to continue the conversation on this key issue. However, if you are experiencing significant cash-flow problems which have occurred as a result of the pandemic, please do get in touch with us.

We were pleased to be able to share with you last week the Escalation Policy the health and care system has developed. This policy is to let you know what wrap-around support you can expect from the health and care system should you

experience a disruption to your service. If you have any comments or questions on this, please email [Eleanor.moulton@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Eleanor.moulton@sefton.gov.uk)

This week saw the Military Unit return to Southport with its pop-up testing facility for three days. We know that this facility was well received, with 528 people attending to be tested. We are also pleased to be able to let you know that the Military Unit will also be having a pop-up site at The Meadows Leisure Centre, Maghull between the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May. We do not currently know when this will be an option on the booking facility but wanted to let you know so you can watch out for it.

During the past few weeks there has been much information around testing and swabbing and how to access this for your staff and residents. We have been communicating this to yourselves as we become aware of it but appreciate that the different routes and options for you have been perhaps confusing.

To help streamline this for you, we have prepared a COVID-19 Care Home Testing Pack that includes guidance and visual overviews of the testing options and processes. <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1718919/20200514-covid19-care-home-testing-pack-web-version-v10.pdf>

This includes details of the new digital portal for care homes coronavirus testing as announced by the Department of Health and Social Care on Monday 11th May, as part of the efforts to test every staff member and resident in every care home in England, whether symptomatic or not. We anticipate that the demand for this portal will be high and therefore will be targeted, so we are working with the care home market to make sure those with greatest need are prioritised.

Please be aware that the testing options and process in the pack is an iterative one and evolving rapidly; we will ensure you are kept up to speed with the latest access and guidance to testing as we are informed by Central Government.

Two additional processes on swabbing Key Workers who cannot travel to testing sites and swabbing for Care Home pre-admission have been developed. This is applicable to the whole of Sefton and covers both CCG areas.

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1718920/care-home-pre-admission-swabbing-process-final-150520.pdf>

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1718921/key-worker-community-swabbing-process-final.pdf>

Please do continue to let us know of any suspected outbreak by ringing the Infection Control Team on 0151 434 4819 on a Monday-Friday between 9.00am -17.00pm or the PHE Health Protection Team on 0151 295 3036 after 5.00pm/weekends/bank holidays.

At the weekly strategic call this week we referred to guidance regarding primary and community health support for care home residents.

Both CCGs in Sefton have been working with our NHS community services providers, Mersey Care Foundation Trust and West Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust, local primary care networks and Sefton Council social care colleagues to review our current arrangements and to identify where we can enhance that support. Many care homes already receive proactive support from our community service providers, and they are now formalising this through a more systematic weekly “check-in” with each care home. Following the “check-in”, where clinically required, the teams will facilitate virtual Multidisciplinary Team discussions (MDTs) bringing together appropriate colleagues to support individual needs. We are also further progressing existing arrangements for the development of personalised care plans and building on the support already received by care homes relating to the management of medicines and medication reviews. We will share more detailed information with you and look forward to gaining your feedback on the plans as they progress. Please do let us know if there is anything you wish us to consider.

Also, on the strategic call with care homes this week we shared discharge guidance to help you understand what the process should be with swabbing and subsequent routes upon discharge from Southport and Ormskirk Hospital. Please note that this is not for Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

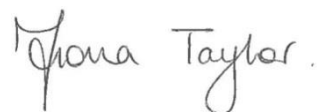
To help support the discharge process, we are also keen to understand from you whether your care home is willing to readmit residents following a stay in hospital and if you are not willing, what your reservations are about this and any support needs you may have to enable this to happen? We would appreciate if you could please email [commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk) to let us know your thoughts on this for your home/s.

Once again, thank you for all that you are doing and I’m sure you will agree that working collectively together is helping us to get through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



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Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Fiona Taylor  
Chief Officer, NHS South  
Sefton and NHS Southport  
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