

Deborah Butcher
Executive Director for Adult Social
Care and Health

Magdalen House
Trinity Road
Bootle
L20 3NJ

0151 934 3105
www.sefton.gov.uk

Date: 30th April 2021

Dear Care and Community Support Provider,

We are pleased to let you know that we are seeing an increase in the number of social care staff and care home residents being vaccinated. Data from the Capacity Tracker informs us that 95% of care home residents have been vaccinated, which is the highest in the Liverpool City Region and we are seeing an increase in care home staff being vaccinated with 80% now having had a vaccine. Seventy five percent of home care staff have also had their vaccine, so thank you to all of you for your collective efforts on this – it is really making a difference!

We mentioned last week that we were updating the COVID-19 vaccination Frequently Asked Question document. Please find this attached and we would be grateful if you could please share with your staff teams. We are looking into whether we can run any additional GP led Question and Answer sessions about the vaccine and will keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime, here is a link to a short vaccine video from Liverpool Women's Hospital about the vaccine and pregnancy/infertility which may be helpful for your staff <https://youtu.be/jUgn-f-pYc4>

Last week, we also shared some information about the psychological support available to you and your teams. In addition to this, you may find the Government advice useful on managing your mental health and how employers can take care of the wellbeing of their staff during the coronavirus outbreak.

[COVID-19 health and wellbeing - ASC workforce](#)

[Tips, Advice and Toolkits for Health and Wellbeing - ASC Workforce](#)

This week, we also wrote to you about an important customer notice advising that there was a pick error in the PPE distribution centre and if you have received the Dochem Type IIR mask – Product code 1A3100, (SKU MKTIIR0156 – MKTIIR0118) delivered on and around the 19-21 April 2021, please remove from your stock and not used until further notice. The attached letter provides more information.

There has been some changes to the following Government Guidance [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing for adult social care settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) The Guidance has been updated to add 'Visitors to adult social care settings: reporting rapid lateral flow tests at home' guidance.
[Information for Community Support Providers](#)

This week we have written to Domiciliary Care, Supported Living, Extra Care and Community Support Providers to advise you that unfortunately there will be a further delay to the fee setting timeline. We apologise for the further delay; however, this is due to the need to ensure that the decision-making process is conducted in accordance with the outcome of the impending Local Elections, which encompass Cabinet Member positions being determined at the Full Council AGM on 20th May 2021. As a result, we envisage that fee decisions will be considered by the Cabinet Member soon after the 20th May 2021.

As part of the email with this letter there is a coronavirus testing update for Extra Care and Supported Living providers, which provides important details and reminders about:

- Visitor self-testing
- Changes to our privacy notice
- The importance of dual testing for staff
- Rapid lateral flow tests – moving from boxes of 25 to 7
- Using the Self-Referral Portal
- Weekly Webinars

Information for Care Homes

The Innovation Agency (North West Coast Patient Safety Collaborative), Southport & Formby / South Sefton Care Commissioning Groups and Sefton Local Authority are working together to enhance the confidence of care home staff in detecting and appropriately escalating deteriorating residents with the implementation of RESTORE2™. This is a physical deterioration and escalation tool specifically designed for care/nursing homes based on nationally recognised methodologies including early recognition (Soft Signs), the national early warning score (NEWS2) and structured communications (SBARD). This will help improve communication between care homes and their serving GP practices to help reduce admissions where inappropriate. You can find out more information about RESTORE2™ here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gxrr9QOergg>

We advocate Care Home Manager's, Deputies and at least 2 nominated 'Safety Champions' attend the free training, following which you are then able to cascade within your home via a train the trainer approach. The link to book onto the free training is as follows:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/restore-2-online-training-session-tickets-103421153454>

All homes will receive two Pulse Oximeters next week. Please be aware that there is no maintenance contract attached to this free resource.

Testing for Professionals Visiting Care Homes

Further to the recent update on testing for professionals visiting care homes (outlined below), please note that for employees of NHS Trusts using (weekly) LAMP testing for routine staff testing, a negative result from the previous 7 days can be considered as sufficient evidence:

“The majority of NHS professionals will be using rapid LFT testing for their regular testing regime. However, if a professional falls under a different NHS testing regime which uses PCR or LAMP testing, the individual will also need to demonstrate that they are testing in line with NHS policy for

that testing technology”.

As ever, testing is only one part of the approach to reduce risk and it is critical that visiting professionals don and doff PPE appropriately and follow the relevant infection control measures when visiting a care home including hand hygiene and distancing, in order to help keep care home residents and staff safe.

The following link sets out the guidance [Testing for professionals visiting care homes - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/testing-for-professionals-visiting-care-homes)

We appreciate everything you are doing around infection control. Could we please also ask you to consider your arrangements for other care home visitors, for example professional trades people and hairdressers/chiropractors. If its possible for these appointments to take place in the visitors' own room or a dedicated room, which has ventilation, it would help prevent transmission.

Liverpool City Region Grants

We shared on the Finance call this week advance notification of a Care Home Grants offer from the Liverpool City Region. Whilst the official launch and documentation is still being worked through there a few points to make you aware of. LCR Care Provider Grant launching Tuesday 4th May for applications from small and micro businesses; the application window will close Tuesday 18th May to give time for applications to be appraised the approximate grant value of up to £5k for Registered Care Homes. When the Grant is launched providers will receive emails taking them to Sefton councils website where they can see the guidance, application form, privacy notice and Ts&Cs. The Grant is for micro and small business, those with 0-10 staff or 11-50 staff and also defined as businesses with less than £632k turnover and £316k balance sheet or turnover of less than £10.2m and balance sheet of under £5.2m. Businesses have to be CQC or OFSTED registered and still trading, not insolvent, dissolved or dormant. If businesses have premises across different LCR authorities, they'll have to complete a return for each area e.g. a business in Bootle is an application to Sefton; business in Huyton is an application to Knowsley. Grants will be paid via BACS. The onus is on businesses to make sure they read the guidance and checklist before submitting their application- the team will not be able to chase businesses to complete their application and evidence submission; incomplete applications will not be appraised and could be rejected. The Council's decision on grants are final, there is not an appeal process

Fees

This week we have written to Care Home Providers to advise you that unfortunately there will be a further delay to the fee setting timeline. We apologise for the further delay; however, this is due to the need to ensure that the decision-making process is conducted in accordance with the outcome of the impending Local Elections, which encompass Cabinet Member positions being determined at the Full Council AGM on 20th May 2021. As a result, we envisage that fee decisions will be considered by the Cabinet Member soon after the 20th May 2021.

Vaccination Hesitancy Support

Further to our recent discussions on this subject we will be sharing information on GP led Q&A sessions for staff to help support with any barriers to Vaccination. These will be made available in partnership with our Liverpool colleagues and more information on dates and times will be shared over the course of next week.

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 at this time.

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