

Media Release

For Immediate Release

30th September 2016

THIRSK AND MALTON MP KEVIN HOLLINRAKE VISITS HIS LOCAL PHARMACY TO SEE AND PROMOTE THE NATIONAL PHARMACY FLU VACCINATION SERVICE

2pm, Friday 30th September 2016 Becksde Pharmacy, Maltongate, Thornton-le-Dale, Pickering, YO18 7RJ

During Kevin's visit he learned more about the national pharmacy flu vaccination service. The service aims to make it easier than ever to get a flu jab and to increase the number of, 'at risk', people across England being protected from ill health over the winter months.



Kevin Hollinrake MP with Anna Horton, Pharmacist at Becksde Pharmacy

Kevin Hollinrake MP commented: "Flu jabs are incredibly important in helping us get through the winter months in good shape, particularly for those who are eligible for a free jab. The Community Pharmacy flu vaccination service and our local surgeries work together to make it easier for more people to have the jab at a time that is convenient for them. Good health at any time, not just as winter approaches, cannot be taken for granted and easy access to good, local healthcare is essential. I am looking forward to visiting the Becksde Pharmacy to learn more about the service."

Pharmacist Anna Horton at Beckside Pharmacy commented: “The NHS community pharmacy flu vaccination service, which is available in Thornton Le Dale, again this year, is a great opportunity for more ‘at risk’ people to have their vaccination, protecting them during the winter. This is the second year that the NHS is acknowledging the essential role that community pharmacies play in delivering flu vaccinations and we look forward to helping the NHS protect more people this year.”

The FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service commenced again this year on the 1st September 2016.

All adult patients who are eligible for NHS flu vaccinations will be able to have them free of charge at local community pharmacies in North Yorkshire.

Flu vaccinations are vital to protect people who would be at risk of health complications if they caught the virus and the NHS aims to vaccinate at least 75% of people who are considered to be in at risk groups. These include pregnant women, people aged 65 years or over, and people with certain medical conditions.

North Yorkshire Pharmacists are trained healthcare professionals and many have been providing flu vaccinations for over five years, both privately and as part of local NHS services.

The introduction of a national community flu vaccination service proved to be very popular with patients. Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire are sure that they will increase those taking advantage of the service this year, and protect more vulnerable people from serious illness or early deaths.

Kevin Hollinrake MP is the latest of all 8 North Yorkshire MPs visiting their local Community Pharmacy to promote the FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service for vulnerable patients.

- Rachael Maskell MP - Whitworth Chemists, York
- Andrew Jones MP – Lloyds Pharmacy, Harrogate
- Rishi Sunak MP - Village Pharmacy, Catterick
- Julian Sturdy MP - Boots, Haxby, York
- Kevin Hollinrake MP - Beckside Pharmacy, Thornton Le Dale
- Julian Smith MP - Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, Pateley Bridge
- Nigel Adams MP - Milford Pharmacy, South Millford
- Robert Goodwill MP - Boots Pharmacy, Whitby

About the Pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service:

All adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free of charge NHS flu jab at Community Pharmacies across the country, often without the need for an appointment. People in ‘at risk’ groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes (see the full list at <http://tinyurl.com/WhoGetsFlu>). Pharmacists will be using the same vaccination as those offered by GPs and they will be required to notify GPs when they have vaccinated patients.

End

For further information contact...

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Editor Notes

Community Pharmacists are regulated healthcare professionals. Their training includes a four-year degree along with a year working in practice followed by examinations. Pharmacists are experts in medicines and are regulated by the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC).

There are 152 Community Pharmacies in North Yorkshire. Ninety-five percent of the North Yorkshire population live within a 10 minute drive of a Community Pharmacy, and the vast majority of these have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use them to provide a range of public health and other services including services to help people to get the most benefit from their medicines and to lead healthier lives.

Eligible adult patients are people aged 18 years and over at the time of vaccination. They include:

- people aged 65 years and over (including those who will become aged 65 years by 31 March 2016);
- pregnant women;
- carers;
- those in long-stay residential care homes;
- people aged from 18 to less than 65 years of age with one or more of the following medical conditions:
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis;
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure;
 - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five;
 - chronic liver disease;
 - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability;
 - diabetes;
 - splenic dysfunction; or
 - a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment).