



Community
Pharmacy
North
Yorkshire

Media Release

For Immediate Release

29th March 2017

71.1% Increase in Flu Jabs

Community Pharmacies have had another record year administering flu vaccinations and keeping more people than ever safe this winter from flu. The total flu vaccinations administered in North Yorkshire were 11,220, a 71.1% increase on last year's numbers of 6,595.

As a result of this success, the NHS has announced it will be commissioning the service again starting on the 1st September 2017 through to 31st March 2018. In doing so the NHS is acknowledging the essential role that community pharmacies play in delivering flu vaccinations, which is due to easy access and in many cases no appointment is needed.

Another contributing factor to the local success has been North Yorkshire MPs attending their local Community Pharmacy to have their jab. All 8 North Yorkshire MPs visited their local Community Pharmacy to promote the FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service for vulnerable patients.

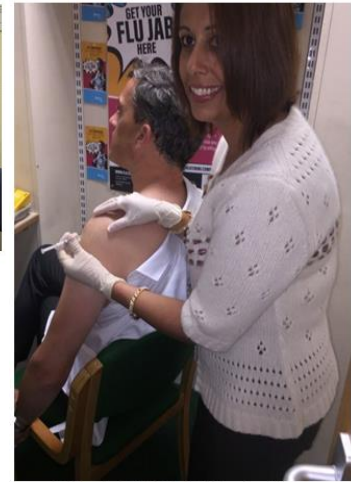
- Rachael Maskell MP - Whitworth Chemists, York
- Andrew Jones MP – Lloyds Pharmacy, Harrogate
- Rishi Sunak MP - Village Pharmacy, Catterick
- Julian Sturdy MP - Boots, Haxby, York
- Kevin Hollinrake MP - Becksid Pharmacy, Thornton Le Dale
- Julian Smith MP - Pateley Bridge Pharmacy, Pateley Bridge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



Nigel Adams MP and Pharmacist Jon Kaye



Kevin Hollinrake MP with Anna Horton, Pharmacist at Becks Pharmacy



Julian Smith MP with Samina Khan, Pharmacist at Pateley Bridge Pharmacy



Boots Haxby Pharmacist Linda Fell and Julian Sturdy MP



Andrew Jones MP and Shaun Davies Pharmacist Lloyds Pharmacist Harrogate



Rachael Maskell MP and Pharmacist Delia Aragon, Whitworth Chemists, York



Robert Goodwill MP Boots Pharmacy, Whitby



Rishi Sunak MP The Village Pharmacy, Catterick Village

Richard Harrison, the Pharmacist at Haxby Group Pharmacy who vaccinated a record 600 people in his pharmacy said “This is an excellent Community Pharmacy NHS service which is so accessible, with no appointments required in my pharmacy. We actively promote the service to our patients and it’s great that we have be able to protect them from the effects of flu this year. As winter draws nearer, many people will suffer with ill health, especially older people aged 65 and over and adults with certain medical conditions, and they can benefit from the NHS flu vaccination service. The service helps protect people from health complications through the winter months.

I will definitely be offering the service again for 2017/18 and endeavoring to protect even more patients than last year.”

The FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service will commence again this year on the 1st September 2017.

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.

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 154 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).