

Media Release

For Immediate Release

29th September 2016

**CHAIR OF YORK HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
COUNCILLOR RUNCIMAN VISITS VALUED COMMUNITY
ASSET: HER LOCAL PHARMACY TO SEE NATIONAL
PHARMACY FLU VACCINATION SERVICE**

**9am, Thursday 29th September 2016, Huntington Pharmacy, Huntington
Surgery, 1-3 North Lane, Huntington, YO32 9RU**

During her visit she 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.



Cllrs Carol Runciman and Pharmacist Sarah Cuthbertson

Cllr Runciman commented: "This is an excellent service and so accessible, with no appointments required. Last year, North Yorkshire Community Pharmacies increased the numbers attending by 283% to 6,945. Their aim is to vaccinate more this year and protect

more vulnerable people. This work shows the true value of community pharmacies and the vital role they have in delivering frontline health services in York and North Yorkshire.

“As winter draws nearer, many people will suffer with ill health. Older people aged 65 and over, and adults with certain medical conditions, can benefit from the NHS flu vaccination service now being offered in Community Pharmacies. The scheme will help protect people from health complications through the winter

Huntington Pharmacy pharmacist Sarah Cuthbertson commented: “The NHS community pharmacy flu vaccination service, which is available in York, again this year, is a great opportunity for more ‘at risk’ people to have their vaccination, protecting them during the winter. We vaccinated record numbers last year and are expecting to exceed that number this year. Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations and this service makes it easier than ever for you to get vaccinated without the need for an appointment. This is the second year that the NHS is allowing community pharmacies to participate in flu vaccinations and we look forward to helping the NHS protect more people this year.”

The FREE national pharmacy flu vaccination service will commence 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 and York.

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 and York 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 and York 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.

The NHS Pharmacy flu vaccination service is available in all of York’s Community Pharmacy, with no appointment required.

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 and York. Ninety-five percent of the North Yorkshire and York 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).