

# Media Release

## For Immediate Release

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

### 100% Increase in Community Pharmacy Flu Vaccination

Community Pharmacies across Yorkshire have this year broken their flu vaccination record, administering a total of 121,461 flu vaccinations to their patients under the national NHS service. This is a 100% increase on this time last year.



Top to bottom left to right Darren De Souza, Ruth Buchan and Lisa Meeks having their flu vaccination

More and more people are now having a flu vaccination since Community Pharmacies started delivering this service in 2014/15 and the numbers have grown year on year. The

reason for this is that Community Pharmacies are easily accessible, convenient and 99% of the time no appointment is necessary.

Over 898 Community Pharmacies across Yorkshire in both city and rural settings are delivering the service, with a number of them having now vaccinated over 1,000 patients this winter season.

Mr Graham from York said: "I had my flu jab whilst shopping on Saturday morning; it was easy, quick, no waiting and took only a few minutes".

During the winter months, 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 service helps protect people from health complications through the winter, and protect more vulnerable people from serious illness or early deaths.

Kevin from Huddersfield / West Yorkshire said, "I went into my pharmacy to collect my medicines as usual, I was asked if I have had the flu jab and if I wanted one. It was so easy, within minutes I had the flu jab, the pharmacist was great and it was just really convenient. I would definitely use them again next year!".

The NHS Community Pharmacy flu vaccination service is a great opportunity for more 'at risk' people to have their vaccination and they are clearly doing so. Community Pharmacies are the most accessible NHS healthcare locations and this service makes it easier than ever for eligible groups to get vaccinated without the need for an appointment.

The NHS has already commissioned the service in Community Pharmacies for 2018/19 recognising the value of the service.

### **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).

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).