

Dear Pharmacy Contractor,

Re: Request for notification of opening hours on forthcoming Public and Bank Holidays – December 2020 & January 2021

NHS England & Improvement North Yorkshire and Humber Region have arrangements in place directing a number of community pharmacies across the region for period 2020 - 2023. We are now seeking confirmation from any other pharmacy that intend to open and would like to be advertised and profiled on NHS 111. If you are unsure if you have been directed a copy of the directed rotas are attached to this letter split by CCG area. This includes pharmacies that have already notified us they are open anyway, even without a direction imposed by NHS England & Improvement.

Please find enclosed a form for you to complete to notify NHS England of your opening hours on forthcoming Public and Bank Holidays – December 2020 & January 2021.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to Winter pressures, NHSE&I North Yorkshire & Humber would welcome additional capacity on all of the Bank Holidays in Dec 2020 and Jan 2021. Whilst this would need to go through the relevant regulations, as a local area team we would be able to provide funding for any volunteers that would not otherwise open across any of the days on the attached Bank Holiday Form. This funding would be in line with normal arrangements for NHSE&I Bank Holiday directions.

Community Pharmacy is an important part of NHS system resilience and is promoted as first contact for many conditions and the elderly who are feeling “under the weather”. Notification of intended opening hours allows NHS England & Improvement to assess the adequacy of community pharmacy provision at a Health and Wellbeing Board level.


Please Note:

- We would encourage all pharmacies to complete the attached form, however Pharmacies that do not complete and return the form will be assumed to be closed on all public and Bank holidays and open normal hours on all other days.
- Pharmacies who give notice of being open on Public and Bank holidays will have this information passed on to relevant organisations including CCGs, NHS111 and local newspapers
- NHS England has agreed a rota covering these bank holidays and those contractors will be required to open as directed

ACTION: Please complete the attached form stating whether closed or open on Public and Bank holidays – December 2020 & January 2021. **Please return the completed form by 05/11/2020 to:** England.pharmacyreturns@nhs.net

Please include your Contractor (ODS) Code within the subject of the email.

Yours sincerely



Helen Phillips
Programme Lead, NHS England