PRESS RELEASE

[insert date]

LOCAL MP [insert name] VISITS LOCAL PHARMACY AS NATIONAL PHARMACY FLU VACCINATION SERVICE GETS UNDERWAY

[Add photograph if possible. Provide caption with names of those included]

Today [insert MP name] visited [insert pharmacy name] to learn more about the national pharmacy NHS flu vaccination service. The service aims to make it easier than ever to get an NHS flu jab and to increase the number of at risk people across England being protected from ill health over the winter months.

During the visit [insert MP name] [insert activity as it took place eg discussed the service with the pharmacy team/ spoke to patients benefitting from this new service/ received a flu vaccination]

[Insert pharmacist name] comments: “The NHS community pharmacy flu vaccination service, which is now available in [insert location], is a great opportunity for more at-risk people to have their jab protecting them during the winter. Community pharmacies are the most accessible healthcare locations and this service makes it easier than ever for you to get vaccinated, in the main without the need for an appointment.”

[request quote from local MP’s team – **do not use a quote unless permission granted**. Some will prefer a draft quote for them to sign off. If so suggested wording follows]

*Local MP commented, “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 being offered in local pharmacies. The vaccination will help protect people through the winter months avoiding an illness that can have serious consequences. I encourage at-risk people in [insert location] to make sure they get their flu jab.”*

**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 people.

-ends-

[insert contact email and telephone number]