**Flu Vaccination Service Care Home and Domiciliary Care Worker press release template**

This template press release provides some suggested text for LPCs to use with local media outlets. The areas marked xx should be completed with the LPC region in question.

LPCs may wish to substitute the other highlighted areas with local information, e.g. to give local vaccination rates, or include information about local services.

The quotes from a local community pharmacist and LPC representative below are suggested comments that may give LPCs an idea of the direction local quotes could take, but they will need to be attributed to relevant local people.

**Local community pharmacies extend NHS flu jabs offer to care home workers**

Community pharmacy teams in xx began offering free NHS flu jabs in September. As part of this year’s flu vaccination programme, community pharmacists in over 9,000 pharmacies across England have already provided over one million flu jabs as of 3rd November 2017.

An update to the NHS Flu Vaccination Service for this season means community pharmacy teams can now also vaccinate care home and domiciliary care workers from 20th November 2017. Community pharmacies in a variety of locations across xx will be offering care home and domiciliary care workers with a free of charge NHS flu jab, with workers simply required to present evidence of their work, such as a work ID badge.

Registered employers of care homes and domiciliary care workers are encouraged to support their health and social care staff (aged 18 years and over) who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients to get their flu jab as soon as possible.

The NHS Flu Vaccination Service provided by community pharmacists offers people a convenient location in which to be vaccinated, often on a walk-in basis. This addition to the service will boost the uptake of flu vaccinations responding to pressures on frontline services this winter. It will help the NHS to ensure that many people as possible who need the vaccination, receive it, helping to meet World Health Organization vaccination targets.

**xxx [LPC representative] said:**

“The addition of the care home and domiciliary care workers to the community pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service means that even more people will have greater access to flu vaccinations protecting those most vulnerable.

Community pharmacists are looking forward to providing the extension to the service and we are keen to work with colleagues in general practice to help ensure that as many eligible people as possible are vaccinated this year.”

**Notes for Editors**

Further information about NHS flu vaccinations

More details on the annual programme for flu vaccination is included in the annual flu letter: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan>

NHS England announced the extension of the community pharmacy scheme to Care Home and Domiciliary care workers as part of their [new proposals to manage winter pressures](https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/10/nhs-leaders-unveil-action-to-boost-flu-vaccination-and-manage-winter-pressures/) on 17th October 2017.

Additional background information on the additional group for the pharmacy Flu Vaccination Service is available on the PSNC website: [psnc.org.uk/flu](http://psnc.org.uk/flu)

Further information about community pharmacy

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 around 11,700 community pharmacies in England and in 2016/17 8,451 (71.2%) signed up to provide the national Flu Vaccination Service after their pharmacists undertook the required training.

More than 99% of people living in areas of the highest deprivation are within a 20-minute walk of a community pharmacy. Around 99% of community pharmacies in England now have private consultation rooms. Pharmacies use these 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.

Contact

xxx Local Pharmaceutical Committee represents community pharmacy contractors (owners) in xxx. For further information on this press release please contact:

[Contact details including phone and email]