**COVID-19: SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY HEROES**

Community pharmacies in [xxx] are providing a lifeline for patients and the public, working around the clock to ensure access to vital medicines is maintained.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has developed, pharmacies have seen an increased demand for prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines and healthcare advice as the virus has taken hold. While other key public services have closed or restricted access to the public, local pharmacies have remained open, continuing to support patients, often with little protection for their own health.

Despite being under immense pressure, there have been many accounts of pharmacists in [xxx] who have gone above and beyond to continue to provide prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines and healthcare advice.

[Share a local example – a story from a pharmacy, describing their team’s experience and how they have gone above and beyond to help a patient or their local communities]

Today the [xxx] Local Pharmaceutical Committee is asking the public to help support local pharmacies by:

* Avoiding your local pharmacies if you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 – if you have a dry, persistent cough, fever or shortness of breath, please do not approach any of your local pharmacies. This will help keep pharmacy staff healthy so they can continue to serve the community.
* Being respectful to pharmacy staff – pharmacy staff are doing all they can to support patients and the public during this unprecedented time, often with limited resources. Please treat them with respect.

[Chair of the local LPC/Local pharmacist said:]

“Community pharmacists in [xxx] have often been working all day, as well as evening and weekends, to cope with increased demand, but they are remaining positive and resourceful during this unprecedented period. Many are going above and beyond to help and are doing everything they can to make sure everyone can continue to access medicines and healthcare advice. Today we are asking that patients and the public take some simple steps to help protect our pharmacists, so they can continue to be heroes on the frontline of the NHS.”

**Contact**

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

[Contact details including phone and email]