**Template Press Release/Public Statement for MPs**

The following templates are for LPCs who need to provide MPs with a press release or supportive statement. Some MPs are beginning to visit pharmacies again, so you may need to provide a local press release detailing the visit, available below. Other MPs may prefer to be briefed virtually but may offer to publish a supportive statement on their website or via local media outlets, which is also available below.

**If the MP has visited a pharmacy, you can use the following text as a press release:**

[Name of MP] visited [name of pharmacy] in [location] to hear how staff have gone above and beyond to support local residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the visit [name of MP] heard about: [insert local examples, e.g. stories where patients have been helped, examples where the team has innovated to maintain social distancing etc].

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:

[Name of MP] said: “[Name of pharmacy] is one of the many pharmacies in [name of constituency] where staff have had to cope with unprecedented demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank them for their efforts to ensure patients and the public have been able to continue to access the medicines they need during this difficult time.”

**If an MP has offered to publish a supportive statement, you can use the following as a template:**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, community pharmacies have worked phenomenally hard to provide patients and the public with the medicines they need – in March 2020, a record 93 million prescriptions were dispensed across the country.

In [constituency], our local pharmacies have been part of these efforts and there have been countless examples where pharmacy teams have gone above and beyond to make sure everyone has been able to access the medicines they need, when they need them.

To help keep pharmacy staff safe and help them remain open, there are a number of things that constituents in [xxx] can do to support pharmacy teams, including by:

* Avoiding 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.
* Wearing a face covering (in line with recent government guidance), if you visit a pharmacy.
* 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.