**Press Release for MPs - Winter 2020 Flu Season**

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**LOCAL MP [insert name] HEARS ABOUT BIGGEST EVER FLU VACCINATION CAMPAIGN**

Today [insert MP name] visited [insert pharmacy name] to learn more about this year’s NHS flu vaccination service - which is the biggest yet and is targeting 30 million people across the country.

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.]

[MP name] heard that pharmacies in [constituency] have already reported an increase in public demand for flu vaccination than in previous years, because people are recognising the increased personal risk of having flu while COVID-19 is also circulating in the community.

Adults over the age of 65 and those over the age of 18 with underlying health conditions (including asthma and diabetes) are eligible for an NHS flu vaccination every year and this group had priority access from September in order to help vaccinate as many vulnerable people as possible. Pharmacies across the region [have already vaccinated xx people this year/are reported higher than ever demand for vaccinations] and many are awaiting further deliveries of vaccines.

And with the additional threat of COVID-19, to help protect more people against respiratory illness, everyone between the ages of 50-64 are also eligible for an NHS flu vaccination this year. The government has purchased additional vaccine stocks to help meet demand, and this is expected to be available for this group around November and December. This is in time for the time of year when flu usually starts circulating.

Constituents are advised to speak to their local pharmacy about being vaccinated. As demand is high, you will need to book an appointment and may be asked to wait until a bit later in the winter season.

[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, see below]

*[Local MP] commented, “As we approach the winter months, it is important that everyone who needs a flu vaccination makes arrangements to have one. Pharmacies have seen a huge increase in demand for flu vaccinations already, so speak to your local pharmacy now.”*

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[insert contact email and telephone number]