

# CPWY

Community Pharmacy  
West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

4<sup>th</sup> May 2020

## Press Release

### COVID-19: Support Your Local Pharmacy Heroes

Community pharmacies in West Yorkshire 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 West Yorkshire who have gone above and beyond to continue to provide prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines and healthcare advice.

The community pharmacy teams have been brilliant; everyone from drivers to pharmacists going the extra mile. This includes working extra hours and coming in on days off to ensure that people get their medicines, increasing deliveries to isolated patients and even one pharmacy whose counter assistant is cooking curries for a partially sighted patient who would usually buy his main meal of the day from a local restaurant.

Today Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire 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 CPWY, Mohammed Ikhlaiq said

“Community pharmacy teams in West Yorkshire 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.”

CPWY have created a tribute and thanks to all our community pharmacy teams that can be found here on twitter (<https://twitter.com/CPWYinfo/status/1255431677045809154>) or YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfGXer4JAX4&feature=youtu.be>).

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors**

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire is the Local Pharmaceutical Committee that represents community pharmacy contractors (owners) in West Yorkshire. For further information on this press release please contact: For enquiries and further details please contact Ruth Buchan, Chief Executive, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560 or 07718 192 287. Alternatively, email [ruth@cpwy.org](mailto:ruth@cpwy.org)