

# CPWY

# Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire

Working to represent, support and promote community pharmacy

## Press Release

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**LOCAL MP JUDITH CUMMINS VISITS LOCAL PHARMACY AS NATIONAL PHARMACY FLU  
VACCINATION SERVICE GETS UNDERWAY**



MP Judith Cummins (seated right) with (l-r) James Currie (pharmacist - owner), Melissa Burnley (Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire) and Victoria Weckhuysen (pharmacist)

Judith Cummins visited Currie's Chemist in Wyke to hear how staff across community pharmacies have gone above and beyond to support local residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the visit Judith learned more about the national pharmacy NHS flu vaccination service. The service aims to make it easier than ever to get an NHS flu jab and to increase the number of at risk people across England being protected from ill health over the winter months.

Judith commented: "Curries Chemist is one of the many pharmacies in Bradford South where staff have had to cope with unprecedented demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I would like to thank them and all community pharmacies for their efforts to ensure patients and the public have been able to continue to access the medicines they need during this difficult time."

"I am delighted to support the community pharmacy NHS flu vaccination service, this year it is more vital than ever. Older people aged 65 and over and adults with certain medical conditions can benefit

from the NHS flu vaccination service being offered in local pharmacies. The vaccination will help protect people through the winter months avoiding an illness that can have serious consequences. I encourage at-risk people in Bradford South to make sure they get their flu jab.”

Pharmacist James Currie added “Covid infection rates are rising. Winter and the flu season are around the corner. It’s very important that people at increased risk from flu or who care for someone vulnerable have their free NHS flu vaccination every year.”

“We’re working together to make sure you get the right vaccine. This winter, the best vaccine for you will depend on your age and other risk factors. Ask at your Community Pharmacy or GP surgery -- and get protected.”

For advice and information about the flu vaccination, speak to your community pharmacy, GP or practice nurse. To check if you are eligible go to [nhs.uk/flu-vaccine](https://nhs.uk/flu-vaccine)

**It is best to have the flu vaccination in the autumn before any outbreaks of flu. Remember that you need it every year, so don’t assume you are protected because you had one last year.**

**-ends-**

#### **Notes to editors**

Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire is the Local Pharmaceutical Committee for pharmacies in West Yorkshire.

For enquiries and further details please contact Kathryn Kelly, Head of Operations and Support, Community Pharmacy West Yorkshire on 0113 27 27 560. Alternatively, email [kathryn@cpwy.org](mailto:kathryn@cpwy.org)

#### **About the pharmacy flu vaccination service:**

All adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 years or over and in clinical risk groups, can receive a free of charge NHS flu jab at community pharmacies across the country, often without the need for an appointment. People in at risk groups include pregnant women and those with certain medical conditions including asthma and diabetes. Pharmacists will be using the same vaccination as those offered by GPs and they will be required to notify GPs when they have vaccinated people.

#### **About community pharmacy**

Your local pharmacy is more than just a place to get medicines. It provides a range of NHS services and ensures people can get face-to-face, healthcare professional advice without an appointment. There are around 11,000 community pharmacies across the UK, so for most of us, there’s one very close by. In fact, 96% of people can get to a pharmacy within 20 minutes by walking or using public transport. Community pharmacists provide rapid access, without appointment, to a healthcare professional and offer a range of clinical and public health services. Most pharmacies now have consultation rooms, where you can talk with your pharmacist without being overheard.

You might be surprised at what pharmacies now offer: personalised medicines advice, help to quit smoking and to maintain good sexual health, treatment for common ailments, advice on preventing disease. And more. It’s a package of care...not just packets of pills!

What’s more, pharmacies are part of the fabric of local communities. They provide local employment and are a health and social care asset close to where people live, work and shop.