**Press Release for MPs to promote ‘Pharmacy Collect’**

[BEGINS]

**Rapid COVID-19 testing kits now available from pharmacies in [constituency]**

People in [constituency] can now access free rapid COVID-19 testing kits from local pharmacies as part of a new service to help pandemic recovery.

The new ‘Pharmacy Collect’ service means that COVID-19 testing kits – known as lateral flow devices – are available from pharmacies free of charge. Anyone can request a box of test kits from the pharmacy counter for regular testing at home or elsewhere. The tests are intended for people who are asymptomatic and will be useful for those who need to undertake regular COVID-19 tests, such as those who need to leave the house to go to work.

These testing kits are available in 9 out of 10 pharmacies in England and constituents can use [a new online checker](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/9-in-10-pharmacies-now-offering-free-rapid-coronavirus-covid-19-tests)  to find their nearest pharmacy offering testing kits. ‘Pharmacy Collect’ offers a convenient option for people to access rapid COVID-19 testing, as many pharmacies are located in the heart of communities, on high-streets and within supermarkets.

It is hoped that widening the offer of tests will help to identify COVID-positive cases in the community and break the chain of transmission, avoiding the need for further lockdowns.

**Please note: The below quotes are drafts – MPs will want to approve their own quotes before publication**

**xxx [MP] said:**

“It is fantastic that people in [constituency] can now access rapid COVID-19 tests from a local pharmacy. I encourage constituents to make use of this new service by visiting a participating pharmacy to collect a test, as part of the nation’s COVID-19 recovery effort”.

**xxx [LPC representative] said:**

“Community pharmacy provision of COVID testing means that people in [location] will have greater access to this support. Many people may choose pharmacy for health services because they can visit pharmacies in a variety of locations and at a time that suits them.

Community pharmacists are pleased to be able to do their bit as people return to work and education. This is just one of many examples of how pharmacy teams have helped support patients, the public and the nation during the pandemic.”

[ENDS]

**Notes**

**Further information about Pharmacy Collect**

The online checker is the NHS Test and Trace Site Finder map, which can be used to locate participating pharmacies: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk> (this will be updated on a weekly basis)

Additional background information on the NHS community pharmacy COVID-19 lateral flow device (LFD) distribution service (promoted to the public as ‘Pharmacy Collect’) is available on the PSNC website: [psnc.org.uk/LFD](http://www.psnc.org.uk/LFD)

**About community pharmacy**

There are approximately 11,300 NHS community pharmacies in England providing accessible healthcare alongside the dispensing of medicines. Pharmacies are usually open for longer hours than other NHS providers and 90% of the population can walk to one in 20 minutes.

**Contact**

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

[Contact details including phone and email]