**Press Release for MPs - Winter 2023 Flu Season**

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**LOCAL MP [insert name] COMMENDS PHARMACY EFFORTS TO DELIVER RECORD NUMBER OF FLU JABS**

Today [insert MP name] visited [insert pharmacy name] to learn more about this year’s NHS flu vaccination service - this is planned to achieve at least the uptake levels of last year’s season which saw community pharmacies administer over 5 million jabs nationally.

During the visit [insert MP name] [insert activity as it took place, e.g. 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 unprecedented increase in public demand for flu vaccinations as the health officials try to vaccinate more people than ever before this year.

Adults aged 65 and over and those aged 18 and over with some underlying health conditions (including asthma and diabetes) are eligible for an NHS flu vaccination this year. Pharmacies across the region [have already vaccinated xx people this year/are reported higher than ever demand for vaccinations].

Pharmacies have been planning for the anticipated increase in demand for many months now and with more deliveries expected, most will be able to provide a vaccine for anyone who would like one and is eligible.

Constituents are advised to speak to their local pharmacy about being vaccinated. As demand is high, you will probably need to book an appointment.

[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 an example below]

*[Local MP] commented, “As we approach the winter months, it is important that everyone who needs a flu jab makes arrangements to have one. This will help keep them safe and protect our community, reducing some of the demand on our GPs and hospitals this winter. Pharmacies have seen a huge increase in demand for flu jabs already, so speak to your local pharmacy now.”*

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[insert contact email and telephone number]