

News release

13 August 2009

Antiviral Collection Points to be stood down

NHS Kirklees will be standing down its two dedicated Antiviral Collection Points (ACPs) at Cambridge Street, Huddersfield and the Walsh Building, Dewsbury from 6pm today (Thursday 13th August) until further notice.

Flu friends collecting antivirals using either a unique number from the National Pandemic Flu Service or an authorisation voucher from a GP will instead be referred to a network of seven community pharmacies across Kirklees – details of which are provided below.

The ACPs were initially opened to support this community pharmacy network with the anticipated rise in demand for swine flu antivirals and to enable them to continue to provide a service to other non swine flu patients.

Dr Judith Hooper, Director of Public Health at NHS Kirklees and Kirklees Council, said: “Demand for antivirals in the Kirklees area has decreased so we are able to stand down these extra services.

“The situation will remain under constant review and the centres can be quickly re-opened should demand increase.”

People living in the Kirklees area should continue to use the National Pandemic Flu Service as their first port of call if they are worried they may have swine flu. This can be contacted either online (www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu) or by telephone (0800 1 513 100 or 0800 1 513 200 (Textphone).

Trained staff will assess callers and anyone diagnosed as having swine flu and offered antivirals through the service will be given an authorisation number.

Callers will need to have a pen and paper to hand when contacting the National Flu Service so that they can note down the unique reference number.

This number can be used by their ‘flu friend’ – a friend or relative who does not have swine flu – to pick up antivirals on their behalf from the designated pharmacies in Kirklees.

The flu friend must show their own ID as well as that of the patient. The authorisation number and ID information will be checked to ensure it matches the information provided when the assessment of symptoms was completed.

People should contact their GP direct, rather than using the National Pandemic Flu Service if:

- They are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill with influenza. This group includes:
 - pregnant women
 - You have a poorly child under one year old
 - Your condition suddenly gets worse.
 - Your condition is still getting worse after seven days (five days for a child).

Pharmacies to be used to collect antivirals

Name	Address	Opening Hours
Pharmacy D	Dewsbury Health Centre Wellington Road Dewsbury WF13 1HN	Mon-Saturday 8.00am – 11.00pm Sun 8am -8pm
Asda	Mill Street West Dewsbury WF12 9AE	Monday 8am- 11pm Tues-Fri 7am-11pm Sat 7am-10pm Sun 10am-4pm
Eye Pharmacy	Ravensthorpe Retail Park, Huddersfield Road, Dewsbury, WF13 3HN	Mon - Saturday 8am to 10.30pm, Sun 8am to 10pm
Batley Pharmacy	157 Upper Commercial St, Batley WF17 5DH	Monday – Sunday 8am to 10.30pm
Asda	Longhill Rd Off Bradford Road Brackenhall Huddersfield HD2 2QL	Mon-Sat 8am-10pm Sun 10am-4pm
Tesco	Viaduct Street Off Fitzwilliam Street Huddersfield HD1 1RW	Mon-Sat 8am-8pm Sun 10am-4pm
Greenhead Pharmacy	Greenhead House 2 Greenhead Road	Mon – Fri 8am to 12 midnight

	Huddersfield HD1 4EL	<p>Sat 10am – midnight</p> <p>Sun 10am – 4pm</p>
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Please remember that the pharmacies above will **only** dispense medicines to people who already have their unique reference number or a doctor's authorisation voucher and the necessary ID. They will **not** provide an assessment service and people will **not** be able to obtain their unique reference number at these sites – only through the National Pandemic Flu Service.

Dr Hooper commented: "Swine flu is for the vast majority a mild illness and most people will get better without needing antivirals. Good hygiene measures are essential to help to reduce the spread of all viruses, including the swine flu virus. The 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' messages are essential."

CATCH IT - Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing and using a tissue when possible – if someone coughs or sneezes and they do not cover it, those droplets can spread about one metre (3ft).

BIN IT - Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully. Don't pop it back in your pocket to reuse.

KILL IT - Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face or to other people, especially after sneezing. Cleaning hard surfaces (such as door handles and telephones) frequently using a normal cleaning product.

Dr Hooper added: "It is important to remember that anti-viral drugs are not as effective for influenza as antibiotics are for bacterial infections. For people not in high risk groups antiviral drugs will shorten symptoms by half a day only. Antivirals should preferably be started within 48 hours as their effectiveness drops markedly after that time."

As swine flu spreads, it is important to be able to recognise its symptoms. People who have **two** of the following symptoms **and** a temperature of 38° C and above or feel hot may have swine flu.

The typical symptoms are:

- sudden fever (a high body temperature of 38C/100.4F or above), and
- sudden cough.

Other symptoms may include:

- headache,
- tiredness,
- chills,
- aching muscles,
- limb or joint pain,
- diarrhoea or stomach upset,

- sore throat,
- runny nose,
- sneezing,
- loss of appetite.

Further information about Swine Flu is available online at www.nhs.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu and by calling the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1 513 513.

The latest version of the 'Important information for Kirklees residents about swine flu' can be found at: www.kirklees.nhs.uk/your-health/swine-flu/

ENDS

Notes to News Desk

1. NHS Kirklees is the main NHS body responsible for healthcare and health improvement for people living in the district. NHS Kirklees commissions - that is plans and pays for - any health services you might need. This includes hospitals, ambulances, mental health and other specialist services. NHS Kirklees also agree contracts with local GPs, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists to deliver high-quality services for local people.

**For more information please contact the Communications Team, NHS Kirklees
on 01484 466223**