



Dear Pharmacy colleagues,

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS IN WARWICKSHIRE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT PHARMACY PRESCRIPTION DELIVERIES

The situation around the new coronavirus (Covid-19) is rapidly evolving. The UK population is currently in a lock-down to slow the spread of the virus.

Recently, HM Government and the NHS have asked around 1.5million people who are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 infection to stay at home for a period of 12 weeks. This process is being described as **shielding** and people identified in the categories of patients that the Government would like to be shielded have received a letter from the NHS.

The following information is being provided to shielded patients in the letter from the NHS:

The government is helping pharmacies to deliver prescriptions. Prescriptions will continue to cover the same length of time as usual. If you do not currently have your prescriptions collected or delivered, you can arrange this by:

1. Asking someone who can pick up your prescription from the local pharmacy, (this is the best option, if possible)
2. Contacting your pharmacy to ask them to help you find a volunteer (who will have been ID checked) or deliver it to you.

In response to this and understanding the overwhelming demand on community pharmacies, Warwickshire County Council in collaboration with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) have produced an interim Covid-19 response to support pharmacy prescription deliveries using Warwickshire volunteer community transport.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been established for the volunteer drivers (who are DBS checked) and sets out the process to be followed when delivering pharmacy items that have been prepared by the pharmacy for shielded patients, patients in self isolation, vulnerable patients, or for instance where pharmacy staff deem home delivery by volunteer drivers within Warwickshire is required.

- This SOP does **not** cover delivery of Controlled Drugs (CDs) or medicines requiring an uninterrupted cold chain.
- All deliveries must be made whilst the pharmacist is signed in and in charge of the pharmacy

Please read the SOP which describes the role for pharmacy staff and for the drivers. A Patient Confidentiality agreement will also be signed by the volunteers (see attachments).

To request volunteer transport for delivery of prescriptions:

Pharmacies in Rugby, Warwick and Stratford areas contact: VASA 01789 613458 - Monday to Friday, 9am to 3.30pm or email ali@vasa.org.uk.

Pharmacies in Nuneaton and Bedworth contact Volunteer Friends (Medicar): 02476 98 2066 – Monday to Friday between 9 30am and 3pm.

Pharmacies in North Warwickshire contact Beeline: 01827 717074 - Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm

If the above agencies are unable to assist, please contact: Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) Keith McDermott on 07580 881450 Monday to Friday from 8am – 6pm.

North Warwickshire pharmacies may need to contact WFRS more frequently as Beeline is a smaller organisation of volunteers.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact

Hayley Sparks hayleysparks@warwickshire.gov.uk from Warwickshire County Council
or the LPC ahwlp@gmail.com