

News Release

FIFERS URGED TO ORDER ONLY THE MEDICINES THEY NEED

NHS Fife is urging people to use local pharmacy services responsibly as health and social care services continue to respond to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Patients are being reminded that they should follow their normal repeat prescription ordering pattern and only order the medicines they need. There are no issues with the supply of medicines so there is no reason to stockpile.

Due to significant demand being placed on local pharmacies, some will close for short periods, or operate reduced opening hours. Where this happens there is clear signage on the entrance to the pharmacy as to when they will be open again or directions to an alternative open pharmacy. NHS Inform has a complete list of local pharmacies at: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/scotlands-service-directory/pharmacies> where people can search for the nearest pharmacy if their usual one is temporarily closed.

The increased demand may also lead to prescriptions taking longer than usual to be processed and the patience and understanding of the public is very much appreciated.

NHS Fife Director of Pharmacy, Scott Garden, said:

“Local pharmacies are relied upon and have a crucial role to play in our response to coronavirus here in Fife.

“Over the last few weeks they have been even busier than usual and we ask for continued patience and understanding from the local population as they manage that the increased demand safely and appropriately.

“While we appreciate the level of anxiety brought on by COVID-19, it’s important that people do not attempt to stockpile medicines and order in a similar way as they would usually, by

only ordering the medicines they need. This allows us to maintain sufficient stocks for all of those who may require it.”

Like all other healthcare facilities, those with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not visit their local pharmacy. If you have any flu-like symptoms, a cough, a fever or a cold – or if you generally feel unwell – please stay at home. Advice on self-care is available at nhsinform.scot/coronavirus and if symptoms worsen then contact NHS24 on 111.

The best way to protect yourself against coronavirus, and prevent transmission to others, is to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water regularly throughout the day.

You should also be sure to catch any cough or sneeze in a tissue, bin it, and wash your hands. People should also avoid touching surfaces and then their mouth or eyes.

Background

For the latest health and travel advice, visit: nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

A free helpline has been set up for those who do not have symptoms but are looking for general health advice: 0800 028 2816.