Community pharmacies open in North Ayrshire over the Christmas holiday period

Ayrshire and Arran’s community pharmacies can help you battle the winter blues with a healthy dose of good advice.

Community pharmacists can answer questions on choosing and using the right medicine and provide easy-to-understand advice on treating everyday ailments such as coughs, colds and flu. NHS 24 also has a number of community pharmacists who are able to answer medicine and pharmacy-related questions over the telephone on 111.

You can also do a number of things to ensure you are prepared to deal with common illnesses for the coming months. Have a sufficient supply of medicines like paracetamol, sore throat and cough remedies, as these will help to relieve the symptoms of common winter ailments. If you take regular medication, check your existing supplies and only order what you need to ensure you have enough to see you through the weekends, public holidays and holidays away from home.

What your community pharmacist can do

- If you qualify for the Minor Ailments Service your community pharmacist may prescribe medication for you following a consultation.
- Give you advice on the best way to take your medicines.
- Give women advice and supply emergency hormonal contraception.
- Dispense prescriptions.
- Give advice on diet and exercise.
- Give advice, support and where appropriate, prescribe nicotine replacement therapy to those giving up smoking.
Hold records of your medicines to ensure that the safety of any future medication is checked.

Provide a private area to discuss sensitive issues.

Give you advice over the telephone.

Many pharmacies also offer

- Advice on travel health.
- Pregnancy testing.
- Collection and delivery of prescriptions.
- Supervised methadone supply.
- Needle exchange.

Over Christmas, GP practices will be closed for four days from Christmas Day until Tuesday 29 December. During this time, you can still get advice from your community pharmacist.

**Thursday 24 December 2015**

All pharmacies will open and close as normal with the exception of:

- Wm Morrison Pharmacy, 4 Irvine Road, Largs – closes at 5.30pm
- Superdrug Pharmacy, 6B Aitken Street, Largs – closes at 5.30pm

**Friday 25 December 2015**

All pharmacies will be **closed** except:

- Lloyds Pharmacy, 154/156 High Street, Irvine. Open 12noon – 2pm
- Shergill Pharmacy, 36 Caldon Road, Irvine. Open 10am -12noon.

**Saturday 26 December 2015**

All pharmacies will be **closed** except:

- Well Pharmacy, 18/20 Main Street, Beith. Open 9am – 1pm.
For immediate use

- Boots, 1 Fullarton Square, Irvine. Open 9am – 5.30pm.
- Lloyds Pharmacy, 154/156 High Street, Irvine. Open 9am – 5pm.
- Lloyds Pharmacy, 151 Main Street, Kilwinning. Open 9am – 5pm.
- Superdrug, 6b Aitken Street, Largs. Open 9am – 5pm.
- Morrisons Pharmacy, 4 Irvine Road, Largs. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Boots, 77 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Gallagher Pharmacy, 19 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats. Open 9am – 1pm and 1.30pm – 5pm
- Lloyds Pharmacy, 28/30 New Street, Stevenston. Open 9am – 5pm.
- Lloyds Pharmacy, 110/112 Main Street, West Kilbride. Open 8.45am – 5pm.

Sunday 27 December 2015
All pharmacies will be closed except:

- Superdrug, 6b Aitken Street, Largs. Open 11am – 5pm.
- Boots, 1 Fullarton Square, Irvine. Open 11am – 5pm.

Monday 28 December 2015
All pharmacies will be closed except:

- Gallagher Pharmacy, 1 New Street, Dalry. Open 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm.
- Gallagher Pharmacy, 6 Central Avenue, Ardrossan. Open 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm.
- Gallagher Pharmacy, 41 Glasgow Street, Ardrossan. Open 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 6pm.
- Penman Pharmacy, 2 Eglinton Street, Beith. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Boots, 1 Fullarton Square, Irvine. Open 10am – 5pm.
- Boots, 9 Lower Vennel, Irvine. Open 9am – 1pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, 22/24 High Street, Irvine. Open 11am – 4pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, Unit 2b, East Road, Irvine. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, 9a Frew Terrace, Irvine. Open 10am – 2pm.
For immediate use

- Boots UK Ltd, 78 Main Street, Kilbirnie. Open 11am – 4pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, 2a Dalry Road, Kilbirnie. Open 11am – 4pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, 27 Alsmwall Road, Kilwinning. Open 11am – 5pm.
- Boots UK Ltd, 42 Main Street, Largs. Open 11am – 4pm.
- Superdrug, 6b Aitken Street, Largs. Open 8.30am – 8pm.
- Morrisons, 4 Irvine Road, Largs. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Halliday Pharmacy, 5 Aitken Street, Largs. Open 10am – 4pm.
- Boots, 77 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats. Open 9am – 5.30pm.
- Gallagher Pharmacy, 41 Hamilton Street, Saltcoats. Open 9am – 1.30pm and 2pm – 5.30pm.
- Gallagher Pharmacy, 13 New Street, Stevenston. Open 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 5.30pm.

If you need a pharmacist on Arran, please contact NHS 24 on 111 to arrange.

If you need a doctor urgently and your GP’s surgery is closed, call NHS 24 on 111.

For emergency dental treatment, call NHS 24 on 111.

Ends

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For further media enquiries about this topic, please contact:

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