



Measles confirmed

THE NSW Department of Health has issued a measles alert after four people were reported to have been in the community while infectious in the past two weeks.

Two cases were travellers who spent time in hostels in Cairns and Magnetic Island, Queensland, while the others are children who most likely acquired measles in India.

NSW Health director of communicable diseases, Vicky Sheppard, said people who had not received two doses of measles vaccine should be alert to the symptoms of the highly contagious condition in the coming weeks.

These include fever, sore eyes and a cough followed three or four days later by a red, blotchy rash spreading from the head and neck to the rest of the body.

Measles can have serious complications particularly in kids.

Monash adds new degree

MELBOURNE'S Monash University yesterday announced a "groundbreaking new double degree" which it says will prepare pharmacists to play a more prominent role in improving standards of patient care.

The five year Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honours)/Master of Pharmacy will commence next year, with the first cohort of students to graduate with both a B.Pharm (Honours) and a M.Pharm.

"The master's component of the course gives students the higher level of skills they will require to advance the profession of pharmacy as it is practiced in Australia," said Monash Director of Pharmacy Education, Professor Carl Fitzpatrick.

He said the new double degree would give students a deeper knowledge of medicines and their effects on the body, as well as focusing on building skills needed to drive better health outcomes for patients as pharmacy practice evolves - such as problem solving, critical thinking, empathy, integrity

and teamwork.

Fitzpatrick said traditionally pharmacy degrees in Australia had offered a five year pathway to apply to register as a pharmacist - a four year degree and an intern year.

The new course will allow students to become registered within the same five year period but with the advantage of doing so with a master's degree as well as a bachelor's.

The new Monash pharmacy course is one of the university's so-called "vertical" double degrees which pair a bachelor and a master's course in the same field.

New health topics

THE Pharmacy Guild has published new health advice topics on its Ask Your Pharmacist consumer website.

The additions range from eye health through to depression, explaining how pharmacies can care for and provide advice to consumers on specific issues.

The Guild says the page is also a helpful resource for pharmacists to use in store to help direct their patients to learn about a specific condition.

Further content to be added in the coming weeks will include worms, gout and driving while on medication, the Guild added.

Chemmart's lifesaving pharmacist

BETTY Crocker from Carnegie Chemmart Pharmacy in Melbourne's south-east (pictured) looks like a mild-mannered pharmacist - but swung into action last month on a super hot day when an emergency happened outside her door.

Two people rushed into the pharmacy from the street yelling for help after a 40-year-old woman collapsed on the pavement.

"Her eyes were open and there was blood coming from her mouth, nose and a cut on her face...she had no pulse and was clinically dead," Crocker said.

Realising there was no time to lose the intrepid pharmacist started CPR, continuing for about ten minutes as paramedics arrived and a defibrillator was set up.

The woman she saved, mother-of-two Karen Phillips who is now



out of hospital with an internal defibrillator, acknowledges how lucky she was to be "in the right place, at the right time and with the right people".

Chemmart executive director Duncan Phillips said "Betty went above and beyond the call of duty for someone in our community that day, setting a fantastic example for us all to follow".

Sugar tax urged

PROFESSOR Stephen Colagiuri, Australia's only contributor to the World Health Organization's inaugural global report on diabetes, has called for consideration of a tax on sugar to help deal with the epidemic proportions of diabetes growth here.

The report highlights that the number of people worldwide with diabetes has quadrupled since 1980 and an estimated 422 million adults were living with the disease in 2014.

Colagiuri proposed a sugar tax was one way among a range of measures the Government could undertake in order to tackle the problem.

Referring to programs aimed at cigarette consumption and road safety for example, Colagiuri said there is a responsibility on society to create an environment where changes to prevent weight gain, and in turn the development of diabetes, are facilitated and not hindered.



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Events Calendar

WELCOME to *Pharmacy Daily's* events calendar, opportunities to earn CPE and CPD points.

If you have an upcoming event you'd like us to feature, email info@pharmacydaily.com.au.

15-17 Apr: PharmHack: The world's first pharmacy hackathon; Fishburners, Ultimo; details at: www.pharmhack.com.au

16-17 Apr: Victorian Pharmacy Conference 2016; Monash University, Parkville; more info at: www.psa.org.au

22-24 Apr: 4th BioCeuticals Research Symposium; Sheraton on the Park Sydney; see: www.bioceuticals.com.au

1-10 May: 41st Offshore Refresher; Cape Town and Sun City, South Africa; details at: www.psaoffshore2016.com.au

14-15 May: Laboratory Tests Seminar; Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart; see: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

18-20 May: National Medicines Symposium 2016; Canberra Convention and Exhibition Centre; for more info go to: www.nps.org.au

21-22 May: Critical Care Foundation Seminar; Novotel Brisbane; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

28-29 May: Medication Management in Geriatric Care Seminar; Rydges Sydney Central; for more info visit: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

4-5 Jun: Critical Care Foundation Seminar; Crowne Plaza Melbourne; details at: www.cpd.shpa.org.au

17-19 Jun: ConPharm 2016; Hilton, Adelaide; more info at: www.aacp.com.au

Bachie star power for API

PRICELINE

Pharmacy is partnering with the National Stroke Foundation, enlisting *The Bachelorette* stars Sam Frost and Sacha Mielczarek as ambassadors for the National Stroke Foundation.

The celebrity couple, pictured in store with Priceline pharmacist Ed Tanzil, will help achieve a target of conducting 50,000 free blood pressure readings this month.

API ceo Stephen Roche said: "we are taking an active role in bettering the health of Australian men and women through this partnership with the National Stroke Foundation, and encourage all Australians to take part in *Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check*".

Free blood pressure checks with a pharmacist are available at any Priceline Pharmacy store during April, as well as at selected



Westfield shopping centres.

The campaign runs through until 04 May, with checks taking about 10 minutes including a quick health Q&A, waist measurement, blood pressure reading and results discussion.

PBAC guidelines

THE public consultation process for the draft revised Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Scheme Guidelines has closed, with submissions now considered for inclusion in the finalisation of the revised PBAC Guidelines.

WIN WITH PLUNKETTS

This week Pharmacy Daily and Plunketts are giving away a John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser and Facial Cleanser everyday.

New John Plunkett Dark Spot Eraser is a concentrated serum with Eventone Complex™ – a blend of multiple actives to visibly lighten pigmentation and boost your skin's health and radiance, plus it's easy to incorporate into your daily skincare routine with guaranteed results. RRP \$39.95. Visit: www.JohnPlunkett.com.au

To win, be the first from VIC or TAS to send the correct answer to the question to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Name one other John Plunkett Cosmeceutical product.

Congratulations to yesterday's winner, Rewadee Piemyoosuk from HPS Pharmacies.



DISPENSARY CORNER



BEAUTY is pain so they say, but one Hollywood starlet has taken that saying to a whole other level.

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, has revealed her latest beauty regime - allowing herself be repeatedly stung by bees.

The treatment - apitherapy - utilises bee venom to get rid of inflammation and scarring and has been traced back to ancient Egypt, Greece and China.

"I'm always the guinea pig to treat everything. I've got to try them all," she told the *New York Times* during a recent interview.

"But man it's painful," she adds.

Benefits of the alternative practice have not been scientifically proven, however it has been used to treat multiple sclerosis and arthritis.

CREEPY? Who's creepy?

Researchers at Knox College investigated this to find that a person's "creepiness detector" pings when encountering people outside the norm, with idiosyncratic behaviour, odd physical appearance, or unexpected emotional behaviour.

The survey interrogated 1,341 people, average age 29 years, who identified people who repeatedly licked their lips, laughed at inappropriate moments or habitually steered their conversations toward a single subject, particularly sex.

Further, some people find creepiness in those who work closely with death or sex shops, while clowns seem to be uniformly unsettling.

Respondents thought most creeps were not self-aware.

