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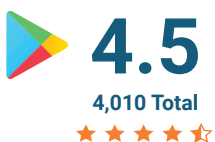
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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of news, plus a front cover wrap from MedAdvisor and full pages from:

- SkinB5
- Sigma Connect

TGA approves COVID test kits

THE Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved COVID-19 test kits from 32 sponsors for inclusion on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

The TGA has noted that conditions have been imposed on the supply of COVID-19 serology-based point-of-care tests, with the Peter Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity set to undertake post-market assessments of new rapid tests to inform their best use.

The TGA is currently undertaking an expedited assessment process based on the information and performance data currently available at the time of application for inclusion on the ARTG.

All tests that are included on the ARTG based on this expedited assessment process are subject to additional non-standard conditions, which makes it easier for the TGA to perform additional post market assessments as experience.

Community missing COVID message

MESSAGING around measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 need to encourage Australians to focus on their risk to the community, rather than their personal risk of contracting the virus, an infectious diseases specialist believes.

Speaking during the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia's (PSA) weekly COVID-19 webinar, University of Wollongong School of Medicine's Associate Professor Alistair Reid said people needed to be encouraged to view themselves as a potential threat to others.

"This virus doesn't have a particularly high mortality [rate] and most people... if they get this virus they'll have a mild disease," he said.

"We're not changing our behaviour to protect ourselves.

"What we need to be doing is, we need to assume that we are a

vector of transmission and we need to be changing our behaviour to protect everyone else."

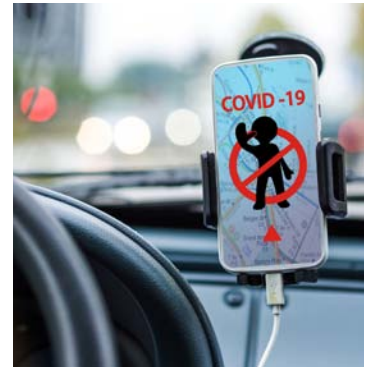
Reid told the webinar to expect social distancing and other restrictions to remain in place for the long-haul.

"The only way we get out of this virus is with a vaccine, which look to be at least 12 months away... or if we get herd immunity," he said.

"And if we get to herd immunity that means that hundreds of thousands of Australians have died, and I don't think anyone wants us to go down that route if at all possible.

"We are in this for the long-haul, we need to make our changes sustainable.

"We will get through this, and we might even be stronger, if we all view our piece of the puzzle as being for the greater good.



"If we all do things for our own good we'll end up divided and overall worse off."

Reid also called on pharmacists to look after themselves and their colleagues.

The PSA will host its weekly COVID-19 webinar tonight from 7.30pm AEST.

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

See the e-script journey now

WITH the introduction of electronic prescriptions coming in May, medication management company, MedAdvisor, is giving pharmacists the opportunity to see the platform in action.

MedAdvisor's preview screening demonstrates the e-script journey, from the prescriber's surgery to home delivery.

See the **cover wrap** for more.

PPA's #PharmacyKindness campaign

MEMBERS of the public are being urged to show their appreciation for pharmacists through a social media campaign.

Professional Pharmacists Australia (PPA) has joined #TheKindnessPandemic movement, launching the hashtag #PharmacyKindness.

"There have been incidents of poor behaviour towards pharmacy staff with many calls for a focus on kindness and understanding," PPA President Dr Geoff March said.

"Pharmacists are one of the first points of contact between the public and the health care system and as all the other frontline healthcare providers, they need to feel safe and valued as they continue work throughout this pandemic.

"This is a time for us to unite - it's time to spread kindness.

"We believe that the #PharmacyKindness campaign is a great way to raise awareness of the issues pharmacists and their staff are going through."

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Dispensary Corner

AMONG many unfortunate victims of COVID-19, personal grooming has been highlighted as having taken a major hit across the globe.

A report from French news agency *AFP* cites major cosmetics brands as having significant concerns about the closure of hairdressers, beauty therapists and nail bars.

Olivier Echaudemaison, creative director of Guerlain, said "above all, don't touch your eyebrows... let them grow, leave a virgin forest".

He said experimenting with makeup was safer, because "if it doesn't work you just take a tissue and you start again."

"But anything with hair is a lot more risky," he added.

AND also from France comes a report in which a doctor has suggested that smoking may help protect against infection by COVID-19.

Dr Jean-Francois Delfrassy cited research from China which found that only 1.4% of coronavirus patients were smokers, out of a fairly small sample of 140.

Another French doctor, Sandrine Belouzard, has also mentioned a Chinese study on 1,000 COVID-19 patients which found over 85% had never smoked, while smokers only accounted for about 17% of those in a critical condition.

The medicos said the results may not be statistically significant, but argued that the nicotine in tobacco may provide some sort of protection.

Pharmacists need face masks - FIP

PHARMACY staff are being encouraged to wear surgical masks and practice regular hand and face hygiene to minimise their risk of contracting COVID-19.

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Practice Development and Transformation Lead, Gonzalo Soasa Pinto, told a COVID-19 webinar last week, that pharmacists were "considered to be at medium exposure risk" to the virus.

"FIP considers that all pharmacy staff should wear a medical mask to protect themselves from infection and to avoid disease transmission in case someone within the pharmacy staff becomes infected," he said.

"We have a duty as health professionals not to infect others ourselves.

"Pharmacy staff depending on the roles that they play within the pharmacy may need to wear additional personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, a gown, face masks, goggles or a



face shield.

"[However], the use of a mask alone is not sufficient to provide an adequate level of protection, so hand and face hygiene should be performed frequently."

While Pinto urged pharmacy staff to use surgical-grade masks, he said respirator (N95) masks were unlikely to be necessary.

He also flagged concerns about wider use of face masks by members of the public.

"We have to understand that the

use of masks may create a false sense of security," he said.

"People often, by wearing a mask, neglect other essential measures such as the handwashing, or they feel that because they are wearing a mask they can be closer to other people... these are behaviours that are actually riskier in terms of self-contamination and infection."

Pinto also noted that mass use of masks could exacerbate supply shortages for health workers and patients who need them most.

Guild backs Kings to deliver

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia is urging metropolitan pharmacies to consider using Kings Group's same-day Pharmacy to Home Delivery Service.

Guild President, George Tambassis, said outsourcing delivery services could help protect staff from potential exposure to COVID-19, while noting Kings long-standing presence in the health industry as a supplier of Sigma Healthcare's delivery services.

Win with Plunkett's

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and Plunkett's are giving away a collection of NS products that protect the skin against irritation, valued at RRP \$36

Are you constantly hand washing and sanitising?

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