

## Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news, plus full pages from:

- API
- Blisma

## N95 masks

PHARMACY wholesaler API has supplies of Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved N95 face masks.

The stocks include US-made Alphapro Tech Face Masks in packs of 35, and KN95 Face Masks made in China, in pack sizes of 10 or 50.

See **page three** for more information.

## Blisma wipes

HYGIENE is a high priority for all and Alita Sales is offering a range of Blisma anti-bacterial wipes that kill up to 99.9% of germs using hospital grade disinfectant.

Alcohol-free Blisma anti-bacterial hand wipes are also available.

See **page four** for further details.

## Don't blame businesses

SMALL businesses should not be held accountable for customers failing to abide by social distancing measures, Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, believes.

Following the confirmation of a staff member at a south-west Sydney pharmacy testing positive for COVID-19 yesterday, Heffernan told *Pharmacy Daily* that he was concerned that small businesses were being expected to control the actions of the public.

"My fear for small business is there's been a creep towards putting responsibility [for positive cases] on businesses not the public," he said.

"If fines are going to be handed out, they should be to the public, not small businesses.

"How can a pharmacy be responsible for the actions of the public?"

Heffernan noted pharmacies, and other businesses, have implemented measures to encourage customers to maintain social distance, but could not force the public to comply.

He said the case at the Pharmacy 4 Less store in Tahmoor, was linked to the outbreak at the Crossroads Hotel in Casula, approximately 50km from the pharmacy.



Heffernan praised the response of the store's owners, who closed the pharmacy to be disinfected and have said it will not reopen until sufficient numbers of staff return negative test results, or replacement staff can be brought in.

MEANWHILE, a Chemist Warehouse distribution centre in Melbourne has also been closed for "deep cleaning" after a worker tested positive for COVID on Thu 09 Jul.

The United Workers Union, which represents staff at the centre reported that "only five" other staff members have gone into isolation "despite the possibility of up to 100 staff who worked the same shift having come into contact with the confirmed case".

Chemist Warehouse said staff were encouraged to adhere to social distancing guidelines.



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### Dispensary Corner

**FAST** food can be very bad for your financial health, if the experience of a group in Melbourne who attempted to flout COVID-19 restrictions is any indication.

The case, which has now been widely reported across the world, involved a birthday party where organisers placed a very large order for KFC fried chicken in the early hours of the morning last Fri.

Police were tipped off about the order by some paramedics who were in the store at the time, with officers following the delivery driver to a home in Dandenong.

There they found about 20 people partying, despite their attempts to hide in the back yard, garage and under beds.

Police Commissioner, Shane Patton, said 16 fines for breaching COVID-19 rules were issued, totalling \$26,000.

"That's a heck of a birthday party to recall and they'll remember that one for a long time," he said.

**HAIRDRESSERS** in the UK are being trained in mental health, because their close bond with clients can mean they are among the first to be able to detect emerging symptoms.

One of the first salons to participate in the program is the Pride Salon in Gloucester, with funding provided by charity group the Lions Barber Collective which was started by Tom Chapman, a hair cutter who said in his 20-year career he had "been told everything".

## Pharmacy mask priority

**PRIMARY** Health Networks (PHNs) in Melbourne should give requests for face masks from community pharmacies priority when distributing National Medical Stockpile supplies, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Speaking to *Pharmacy Daily*, Tassone said pharmacists in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire, where stage three lockdown restrictions were reintroduced last week, were determined to support their communities in tackling the COVID-19.

With the Victorian Chief Health Officer and Premier advising that people should wear face masks when going out in public where social distancing may be difficult, Tassone said there was an "absolute need that community pharmacies must have a level of priority for access to masks".

"We just need PHNs to be able to respond to requests from pharmacies who ask for these masks for their staff and to give to patients when they're referring them on," he said.



"There has been very mixed feedback about how responsive and helpful PHNs were earlier in the pandemic, and whilst they might have had limited stock themselves or perhaps a lack of clarity of who they should have been distributing them to, really this time around in metro Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire at least, with the recommendation to wear masks where social distancing is not possible or difficult, if a pharmacy requests them full and prompt consideration is absolutely necessary."

Tassone added that while masks act as an extra barrier against the virus, maintaining social distancing and practicing good hand hygiene was critical.

## Guild welcomes new NAPSA executive

**PHARMACY** Guild of Australia National President, George Tambassis, has congratulated Monash University pharmacy student, Ethan Kreutzer, on his election as President of the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association (NAPSA).

Kreutzer has succeeded Erin Cooper in the role, following last weekend's NAPSA annual general meeting, which was held online. "COVID-19 has changed a lot

of the ways we have to work in community pharmacy today and this new generation of NAPSA executives will be charged with helping their peers in this new environment," Tambassis said. "It is always refreshing to see enthusiastic and talented pharmacy students who step up to take on these NAPSA roles because of their faith in, and commitment to, their chosen profession."

## Scripts Now clarification

**PRICELINE** Pharmacy's 'Scripts Now' telehealth service will not be impacted by changes announced by the Federal Department of Health last week.

The service is not reliant on Medicare subsidies, as reported (*PD* 13 Jul), unlike other telehealth services provided through pharmacies.



## Guild Update

### Eprescribing webinar

**THE** Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) will be hosting a webinar on electronic prescriptions tonight, from 6.30 to 7.30pm.

As a key priority of the National Digital Health Strategy, electronic prescriptions offer new prescription format options, and convenience for patients and healthcare providers.

Geared specifically for pharmacy, the webinar will discuss the gradual roll-out of electronic prescriptions and how to effectively communicate the coming changes to your patients.

ADHA will also provide an update on progress with the Communities of Interest test sites, detailed resource lists, steps on how to prepare, plus introduce the communications tools available to ensure you and your patients are ready for electronic prescriptions.

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# N95 FACE MASKS

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