



Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Vic lockdown breach fears

PHARMACISTS in regional and rural parts of Victoria are reporting that they are filling a significant number of prescriptions for patients with Melbourne addresses.

Heathcote Pharmacy's Stacey Mannix told the *Bendigo Advertiser* that she had noticed a lot of patients with addresses in Melbourne have come in for prescriptions in the last week.

While unable to say whether or not the patients were breaching lockdown restrictions requiring Victorians to stay in their permanent place of residence, Mannix said it was disheartening that people were not abiding by the rules.

Paid pandemic leave on the table

RISING numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in Victoria could see the Fair Work Commission (FWC) reconsider its decision to reject calls for paid pandemic leave to be added into health awards.

Earlier this month the FWC ruled that it did not consider that there was a need to establish a paid pandemic leave entitlement (*PD* 10 Jul), however, earlier this week it suggested it believed there may be justification to "grant a paid pandemic leave provision in the Aged Care Award 2010".

"We consider that the 'elevated risk' that is discussed in our earlier decision has clearly manifested itself in the aged care industry, at least in Victoria," the FWC said.

"We have also formed the provisional view that it would be necessary to extend any such entitlement to casual employees, since we consider that the developments we have set out indicate the existence of a

demonstrated threat to the aged care system in Victoria.

"In that connection we have in mind that if such an entitlement was established, it would apply to casual employees engaged on a regular and systematic basis, and would entitle them to payment based on an average of their earnings over the previous six weeks.

"The entitlement would initially be established for a temporary period of three months."

While the FWC's proposal is focused on the Aged Care Award, not the Pharmacy Industry Award 2020, the Commission has indicated it would consider relisting the claim at a later date should there be evidence of extensive outbreaks in the sector.

Meanwhile, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) has released the results of a survey finding close to 81% of Australians would support paid pandemic leave



for workers forced to isolate due to the virus.

ACTU Secretary, Sally McManus, urged the Federal Government to introduce paid pandemic leave to reduce job insecurity.

"Workers who are getting tested and isolating are saving lives and saving jobs, they shouldn't lose any pay or put their job at risk to do that," she said.

"We should be thanking and supporting people who are doing the right thing, not punishing them."



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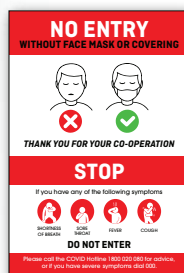
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Dispensary Corner

SOMETHING about COVID-19 stinks, and it's not just the isolation, according to consumer goods giant, Unilever.

Although people have placed a fresh emphasise on hand-hygiene as part of efforts to curb the spread of the virus, the same cannot be said when it comes to the rest of their bodies.

The group which owns a variety of personal grooming brands including Dove and Lynx has reported a significant decline in deodorant sales in recent months, as measures to reduce infection rates have slashed opportunities to socialise.

"Lockdowns in our markets and reduced personal care occasions amidst restricted living, led to lower demand for skin care, deodorants and hair care, which each saw volume and price decline," the company said in an investor update yesterday.

However, it was not all bad news for Unilever, with its ice-cream brands, Ben & Jerry's and Magnum, seeing a 26% surge in sales in the Jun quarter, while other home and hand hygiene products both experienced double-digit growth in the period.



World is watching Aus

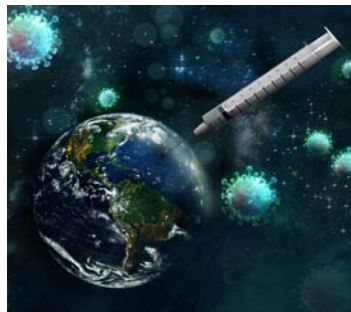
AUSTRALIA'S influenza vaccination campaign is set to be a model for the world, as the northern hemisphere prepares for its flu season.

Speaking at an International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) webinar last night, Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) Secretary General, Darragh O'Loughlin, said healthcare providers and authorities were looking at how Australia and New Zealand have managed to boost flu vaccination uptake during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"My Australian colleagues tell me that they saw significant extra vaccination activity [this year], especially in pharmacies," he said.

"It's not yet flu vaccination season in the northern hemisphere, and we're anticipating that there will be an increase in demand for flu vaccines, so we're putting plans in place to learn from the experiences in the southern hemisphere, in Australia and New Zealand, where they did see a massive uptake."

O'Loughlin added that the increased focus on hand-hygiene, cough etiquette and social



distancing "which has not been pleasant for anybody", could result in lower rates of flu infections.

The Australian flu season appears to be lending support to O'Loughlin's assertion, with data from the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) showing the number of laboratory confirmed cases is significantly below the five-year average.

The latest NNDSS figures revealed a sharp and steady decline in flu cases since COVID-19 lockdown measures were implemented in late Mar, with 65 confirmed cases nationally in the two-week period from 29 Jun to 12 Jul.

Pharmacy employee charged with theft

A FORMER pharmacy employee is facing charges of shooting his way into a store before making off with US\$1,000 worth of alprazolam.

Nicholas Loukas Jr allegedly broke into the Stefko Pharmacy in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on Tue night, with CCTV footage of a man approaching the store at around 11.45pm spray painting the door, before firing a shot at the front window and forcing his way inside.

Police reported the thief fired

a number of rounds at a cabinet door before taking several bottles of medication, before fleeing through the backdoor.

Loukas was stopped in a car a short time later, with officers reporting that a 9mm handgun was in plain view, with 9mm shell casings found near the store's broken window.

When he was taken to Bethlehem Police Department, Loukas took off his footwear and shards of bloody glass fell from inside his shoes.

Ugg boot bandit

WESTERN Australian Police are hunting an ugg boot wearing bandit who held up a Port Kennedy pharmacy in May.

The thief entered the store and demanded prescription medications, while armed with a gun.

Police reported that the robber made off with a quantity of medicine in a silver Chrysler 300C.

Win with John Plunkett's

Everyday this week **Pharmacy Daily & John Plunkett's** are giving away a prize pack including: 1 x John Plunkett's Superfade



Accelerator Serum 20ml and 1 x Plunkett's Aloe Vera Facial Mask valued at \$29.98.

Specifically created for those who have mild pigmentation concerns, Superfade Accelerator Serum is formulated with pigmentation reducing technology, containing a powerful blend of BHA, AHAs and Ferulic Acid Cytoectors. Superfade Accelerator Serum exfoliates surface discolouration and lightens sun damaged skin. Overnight improvement from day 1 and clinical results after 28 days of daily usage.

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Q: Give an example of what causes pigmentation

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