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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today has two pages of pharmacy news.

Vax education needed: WHO

HEALTH authorities around the globe need to empower people to make informed decisions around COVID-19 and any potential vaccines, World Health Organization (WHO) Health Promotion Director, Ruediger Krech, believes.

Speaking during a World Federation of Public Health Associations webinar, Krech said the world was "much better prepared to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 that it was during the Ebola crisis five years ago".

However, he said authorities would need to invest in educating people about the virus and the measures required to stop it, to boost willingness to be vaccinated.

He added that authorities need to listen to concerns surrounding the uptake of a vaccine.

Funding key to pharmacist integration

ADEQUATE funding and recognition of the professional contribution and competencies of community pharmacists will be critical to ensuring their integration into primary health networks, researchers believe.

In an article published in *Pharmacy Practice*, looking at primary care policy and the vision for community pharmacy in Australia, the authors from the University of Technology Sydney, noted the "integration of community pharmacy into primary health care faces challenges, including the lack of realistic integration in Primary Health Networks (PHNs), and in service and remuneration models from government".

The authors said the details of both the yet to be signed Seventh Community Pharmacy Agreement (7CPA) and the Federal Government's Primary Health Care 10-year Plan, would shape the future practice and viability of community pharmacy.

"It is essential that both provide a philosophical direction and prioritise integration, remuneration and resources which recognize



the professional contribution and competencies of community pharmacy and community pharmacists, the financial implications of service roles and the retention of medicines-supply roles," they said.

"A significant barrier to pharmacists achieving high-impact contribution as integrated members of the health team is the current state of remuneration for services.

"The right incentives must be provided for all health practitioners, like GPs, nurses and pharmacists to integrate services effectively, with clear responsibilities contributing to overall health outcomes.

"All aspects of the pharmacist's role need to be resourced appropriately.

"However, there will also be specific challenges such as freeing pharmacists' time to deliver services, recording and using data to demonstrate value for the viability of community pharmacy.

"Without adequate funding and recognition of pharmacist's contributions to primary care, it will be difficult to ensure integration.

"It is clear that the next five years will be critical to lay the foundation for change that is needed to support further integration of community pharmacy into primary care."

Router stolen in pharmacy break-in

QUEENSLAND Police are investigating possible links between three break-ins at pharmacies, with prescription medicines and a VOIP router among the items stolen.

The three incidents occurred between 2.30am and 4am on Thu, at pharmacies on Waldron Street, Yarrabilba, Maudsland Road, Oxenford and Egeersdorf Road, Ormeau.

Police reported two males were seen entering the Yarrabilba store.

A large rock or piece of concrete was used to smash windows in each case, with TerryWhite Chemmart Yarrabilba, noting the break-in on its Google Business profile.

"The thieves took our VOIP router, so we are unable to receive any phone calls at the moment," the post said.

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Dispensary Corner

THE COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world for everyone - even drug dealers.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) last week told *NBC News* that because of the lockdowns it has become much more difficult for traffickers to launder money.

"Their activities are a lot more apparent than they were three months ago," said Los Angeles DEA Special Agent In Charge, Bill Bodner.

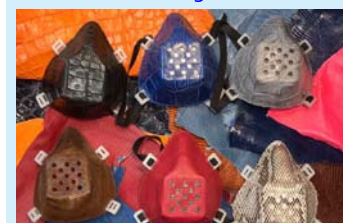
He said officers have been able to seize significantly more illicit cash than usual simply because there are less people moving around the city.

"When there's less hay in the haystack, it's easier to find the needle," Bodner added.

A CRAFTSMAN in the US state of Florida has started creating some really unique COVID-19 masks.

Brian Wood, the owner of All American Gator Products, is making the masks using the skin of pythons which have been invading the Everglades ecosystem for many years.

Leather made from the giant reptiles is ideal for the masks (pictured), which Wood is now selling online for US\$90 (python and lizard) or US\$120 (alligator and stingray) - buy now at facebook.com/aagbrian/



NSW needs NIP access

NSW needs to join Victoria, Western Australia and the ACT in giving pharmacists approval to administer vaccinations through the National Immunisation Program (NIP) the Pharmacy Guild of Australia believes.

Guild NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, told *The St George and Sutherland Shire Leader*, that with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis it was more important than ever to boost access to influenza vaccination services.

"NSW needs to catch up with Victoria, Western Australia and the ACT to empower pharmacists to administer vaccines through the taxpayer subsidised NIP," he said.

"The NIP means older Australians, and other vulnerable groups can get their flu vaccine from the healthcare professional of their choice and in their local community pharmacy if they want to.

"Unfortunately, unlike those elsewhere, over-65s in NSW aren't allowed to choose which healthcare provider they want to receive their NIP flu vaccine from.

"Under the taxpayer-subsidised NIP, people in NSW should get



the same choice as those in other states."

Heffernan's appeal for pharmacists to have access to the NIP was backed by researchers from the University of Technology Sydney, who reported that a number of patients have paid to receive vaccinations in the community pharmacy setting rather than going to a GP even though they were subsidised, in an article published in *Pharmacy Practice*.

"The fact that some consumers [who are eligible for NIP vaccines] are willing to pay for a service... underpins the need to have these vaccinations easily accessible to ensure greater uptake through all community pharmacies," they said.

Win With Aromababy

Everyday this week Pharmacy Daily and AROMABABY are giving away a set of their products worth RRP\$39.95

Aromababy is celebrating 25 years of caring for sensitive skin. From newborn to older children, choose from a complete range of naturally soothing products to cleanse, moisturise, protect and pamper. Offering a variety of unscented options, AROMABABY prides itself on a long history of safety and efficacy as a pharmacy specialist brand. To learn more about the products click [HERE](#).

Q: Are any AROMABABY products unscented?

To win send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au



Weekly Comment

Welcome to Pharmacy Daily's weekly comment feature. This week's contributor is **Arun Sharma, CEO, GuildLink**.



Your complete home medications delivery solution is waiting for you

WITH the impact of COVID-19, GuildLink has seen a significant increase in demand for Home Medications Delivery services from both pharmacies and their patients.

GuildLink is committed to providing digital tools needed to deliver better healthcare outcomes. Due to COVID-19, pharmacies quickly needed a platform where consumers could order medications, pay online and organise delivery of items purchased.

In response to this urgent need and in support of the Federal Government's COVID-19 Home Medicines Service, we released our [Home Medications Delivery Solution](#). Through this solution patients and customers are able to order their prescriptions and other OTC items via our free patient-facing app [myPharmacyLink](#), pay and request Home Delivery - removing the need for patients or customers to break self-isolation or come into the pharmacy. It also enabled pharmacies to securely transact online without having to set up their own eCommerce channels.

Guild members can activate GuildLink's Home Medications Delivery Solution for free, simply by activating the feature in GuildCare NG and registering for Pharmacy Click and Collect; while non-Guild members just need to email info@pharmacy.com.au to organise access.