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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news.

Arrotex shakes

ARROTEX Pharmaceuticals has launched its BioSlim range of very low-calorie diet meal replacement shakes, soups and bars, which will be distributed through community pharmacies.

Win With Dermal Therapy

Dermal Therapy and Pharmacy Daily are this week giving away 1 of 5 \$50 Woolworths Gift Cards.



Dermal Therapy's Lip Balm Original is a highly concentrated formula that is specially designed to hydrate and soften severely dry lips.

Proudly Australian made and owned Dermal's Therapy Lip Balm Original is the N01 selling lip balm product in Australian Pharmacy*

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*IQVIA™, RMS/Sell Out Service, "Skin treatment & Beauty products", Australian Pharmacy, Total value sales and units, MAT to 29/8/2020

Is Dermal Therapy Original Lip Balm Australian made and owned?

To win, be the first person to send the correct answer to comp@pharmacydaily.com.au

Trusted to vax now, why not earlier?

MOVES to activate close to 1,500 community pharmacies as COVID-19 vaccination sites over the next three weeks are being welcomed with a mix of joy and frustration.

With pharmacies in COVID hotspots across Sydney set to start administering vaccines early next week, Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch Vice President, Catherine Bronger, told *ABC Radio's The World Today* that pharmacists were struggling to understand why they were left on the sidelines for so long.

"This is where a bit of the frustration as a community pharmacist occurs, when you think, 'well if we're trusted to do it now in this high-risk environment, then we should've been trusted back in Mar when we could've played a much more proactive role,'" she said.

Incoming Blooms the Chemist CEO, Emmanuel Vavoulas, confirmed that 17 of the group's pharmacies in NSW, Queensland and Western Australia have been activated to join the rollout in the coming weeks.

"Blooms The Chemist is pleased

to be supporting the fast-tracking of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout," he said.

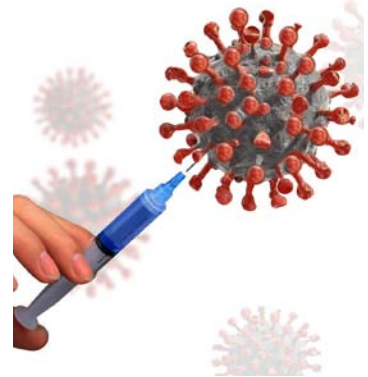
"Our local pharmacies, pharmacists and their teams are ready and waiting to support communities across the country to deliver the vaccinations in the fight against the virus.

"The addition of community pharmacies across the country in the vaccination rollout will provide millions of Australians the option to be vaccinated in their local pharmacy, supporting existing vaccination hubs and GPs."

MEANWHILE, a spokesperson for Chemist Warehouse (CWH) told *Pharmacy Daily* that some of the group's pharmacies had already commenced administering COVID vaccinations.

"CWH is on track to have more than 40 pharmacies across Australia administering COVID vaccinations by the middle of Aug," the spokesperson said.

"A small number have already commenced, and more are scheduled to become active in the coming weeks across all mainland



States at this stage.

"CWH pharmacies stand ready to assist this vital public health operation, and we expect more of our pharmacies to be involved in the months ahead in all parts of Australia.

"Just as CWH pharmacies have more than pulled their weight in influenza vaccination this flu season, so too will CWH serve our patients and the community by administering COVID vaccines wherever and whenever we are given the go ahead by health authorities across Australia."

Money wasted on uncoordinated trials

MILLIONS of Australian taxpayer dollars invested in multiple uncoordinated research programs into COVID-19 may have been wasted experts from the University of Sydney believe.

A review of Australian COVID-19 trials conducted between 01 Jan and 16 Nov 2020, by the university's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Clinical Trials Centre found a lack of collaboration and data sharing had resulted in crucial gaps in research.

The authors said the media coverage and public opinion may have misled research prioritisation, with none of the 56 funded trials looking into public health communication or community transmission prevention of COVID-19.

"Whilst research scale up has been impressive, some of these trials may not have been sufficiently strategic or collaborative, which may have led to taxpayer-funded research waste," the researchers said.

UQ pharmacist GP survey

PHARMACISTS working in or from general practice medical centres are being invited to participate in a survey led by the University of Queensland's (UQ's) Associate Professor Chris Freeman.

The survey aims to provide a greater understanding of the role pharmacists play in general practice and help assist in the development and design of new interventions.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more details.



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Pharmacy a critical COVAX resource

COMMONSENSE and practical measures including engaging community pharmacies in the COVID-19 vaccination (COVAX) rollout will be crucial to ending the cycle of lockdowns seen across the country, Victorian Shadow Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier, believes.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily* the former nurse and midwife said the Victorian Government's current approach to the COVAX campaign has created questions about resources with "nurses taken out of the main system to go vaccinate".

Crozier also raised concerns about the physical and mental health impacts of Victoria's latest COVID-induced lockdown.

"If governments are telling us vaccination is a way out [of the cycle of lockdowns] then we should be concentrating on that," she said.

"There is a big question around resources, so why wouldn't you use pharmacies?"

"That's an additional manpower resource that is critical, because we've got so many nurses taken out of the system - you've got 45 in Mildura isolating [after a COVID-positive patient attended Mildura Base Hospital on Sat].

"They can't get out and vaccinate... well a pharmacist could assist in that area... we need a bit of common sense and some more practical measures around this."

She noted that with COVAX supply set to grow in the coming months, "we really need as many resources to be prepared for when the younger age groups are allowed to have the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines".

Crozier added that moves to activate pharmacies to administer COVAX shots would boost access both for patients in rural and remote areas, and also cities.

"It's insane that elderly people living in Gippsland have to go to vaccination miles away or go to



their GP," she said.

"They mightn't be able to get that access, so why not allow pharmacies if they've got the resources, capacity and capability to vaccinate?"

"We've got to be allowing those people in regional areas to have access [to COVAX].

"In inner city areas the same situation arises for some elderly people - they can't get to the hubs, they don't want to stand in a queue... and if they can go into their pharmacy and get vaccinated then I think that's a good thing."

Irish pharmacies make Pfizer push

COMMUNITY pharmacists in Ireland are calling on health authorities to grant all pharmacies involved in the country's COVID-19 vaccination rollout access to the Pfizer vaccine.

The call comes just over a month after the sector commenced administering the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, with demand for the shot outstripping supply.

Irish Pharmacy Union CEO, Darragh O'Loughlin revealed pharmacies had administered more than 100,000 shots to date, with "tremendous demand", and warned the momentum of the pharmacy-based vaccination program could be lost if stores were left without access to the Pfizer vaccine, while waiting for stocks of the Johnson & Johnson jab to be replenished next month.

Pharmacy 2030: Your Pharmacy, Your Community – Transformational Business Strategies for a Sustainable Future

Blooms The Chemist is bringing together an international panel of experts to share their views on the future of community pharmacy, how the industry is navigating rapid change, and the challenges facing Pharmacists as they evolve from dispenser to clinician.

Featuring:



Steve Howard
FFRPS FRPharmSFCIPD
UK Clinical Standards
Director and Superintendent
Pharmacist, Lloyds
Community Pharmacy



Emma McBride PM
Shadow Assistant Minister
for Mental Health & Carers, and
Federal Member for Dobell



Dr Kerryn Phelps AM
One of Australia's
best-known doctors and
public health advocates



Dr Ronald Hess
Associate Professor of
Marketing, Mason School of
Business, College of William
& Mary USA, and Consulting
Advisor to Blooms The Chemist



Emmanuel Vavoulas
Head of Retail
(CEO-elect,
commencing 1 Jan 2022),
Blooms The Chemist

Tuesday 27 July, 8pm - 9pm (AEST)

Register for the webinar now:
bit.ly/pharmacy2030webinar

Blooms
THE CHEMIST



Dispensary Corner

FORGET the old “the dog ate my homework” excuse - schoolkids in the UK have taken getting out of their lessons to a whole new level by using soft drinks to create false positive COVID-19 tests.

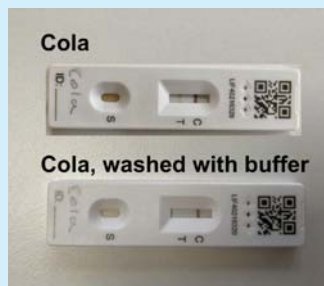
The trick, which has apparently been circulating on TikTok for some months, involves COVID-19 lateral flow tests (LFTs) which are a rapid diagnostic method.

Users take a sample and then mix it with a liquid buffer solution to ensure it stays at the optimum pH, with the combination then dripped onto a testing strip (pictured).

Antibodies bind to the COVID-19 virus and turn a line on the strip dark, producing a result which looks similar to a pregnancy test.

A report in *The Conversation* has uncovered the science behind the scam, which involves the naughty students dripping cola or fruit juice onto the strip, producing a false positive result which gets them out of school.

Apparently the acidity of the liquids “tricks” the antibodies - but the effect can be reversed by raising the pH of the strips once again by rinsing them in the buffer solution.



Pharmacist frustrated at GP scripts

REGIONAL NSW-based pharmacist, Paul Smith, is calling on Sydney GPs issuing prescriptions to patients to be dispensed outside of lockdown areas to ask more questions, to discourage people from breaching COVID-19 restrictions.

The Capital Chemist Huskisson Managing Partner, raised concerns after two men from the lockdown Liverpool area of Sydney sought to have scripts filled at the pharmacy.

Smith told *Pharmacy Daily* that the pair had claimed to have been staying at a caravan park in the area since before lockdown orders were imposed on Sydney, but a call to the park owner confirmed she had no record of them being there.

While frustrated at being lied to by the Sydneysiders, Smith said it

was equally annoying that their GP had faxed through scripts without asking how long they had been away from home.

“Her message on hold was if you’ve been to a lockdown area within the last two week do not come into the surgery,” he said.

“Yet she faxed the scripts out without asking any questions.”

Smith noted that pharmacists had been called out in a recent NSW Health press conference for “letting” sick patients come into their stores, but “you never hear any mention of GPs such as the one that I came across - who probably charged a long consult fee just to fax some scripts out and didn’t ask any questions at all”.

While Huskisson has not been subjected to lockdown orders, Smith said the local community



was weary of the consequences of people from hotspots bringing the virus into the area.

“We’ve had three scares here already with people with COVID that have come through... and the businesses lose a lot of money every time,” he said.

“If we did have a confirmed case again, I think after the bushfires and everything, that would be the end of most businesses.”

HEALTH & BEAUTY

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Dermal Therapy Lip Balm Enriched with Pawpaw

Dermal Therapy Lip Balm Enriched with Pawpaw is a concentrated formula containing a synergistic blend of ingredients designed to soothe and hydrate severely dry and chapped lips, keeping them smooth and healthy. Enhanced with 4% fermented pawpaw & 1% papaya seed oil bringing a soothing & relieving feeling to the lips.

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Website: <https://dermaltherapy.com.au/products/lip-care/lip-balm-enriched-pawpaw>