

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features two pages of news.

Plans in place for booster supply

COMMUNITY pharmacies in remote areas that urgently require supplies of COVID-19 vaccines for the booster and childhood immunisation programs will be able to access emergency deliveries, Lieutenant General John Frewen revealed today.

In an interview with *Sky* this morning, Frewen said the "Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) has met all of the orders that have come in from GPs and pharmacists".

Frewen added that if pharmacies required extra stock the VOC would initially seek to move stocks between providers where additional doses were required.

"If there are cases where there are really urgent circumstances... we'll arrange an emergency delivery," he said.

"All the planning is in place."

Hybrid model needed for RAT rollout

MEASURES need to be taken to bolster access to rapid antigen test kits (RATs), without fueling panic-buying, pharmacy leaders believe.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia NSW Branch President, David Heffernan, said that while stocks remained limited, RATs should be distributed free-of-charge to frontline health and aged care workers, alongside vulnerable populations.

"Having them free for everyone would create a situation where the 'worried well' might just want to get as many tests as they can and stock up," he said.

"This could mean those who need them might not be able to access them.

"We don't want rapid antigen tests to end up as the new toilet paper.

"But long term we want to see a hybrid model where tests are free but also available for purchase by those who want to take that route.

"This would meet the demands of some individuals as well as companies wanting bulk supplies to test employees.

"Under the hybrid model we propose the free tests be available through pharmacies as we have the ability to curate sales and

prevent stockpiling.

"Retail outlets could be the location for purchased tests."

Heffernan added that recent price increases for RATs in pharmacies reflected price rises from wholesalers and distributors, stressing pharmacies were not profiteering from the surge in demand for the kits.

"My last batch was more expensive than previous batches and so although the price was higher to patients, my margin remained the same," he said.

"Pharmacists cannot be expected to absorb price rises originating from wholesalers and distributors."

Chemist Warehouse Chief Operating Officer, Mario Tascone, also backed measures to make RATs more affordable, calling on the Federal Government to scrap GST on the tests.

"The thought of the Government making 10% off millions and millions of packets of sales of RATs really doesn't sit right," he said on *ZGB*.

"They really need to be as affordable as possible."

Speaking on *7News* this morning, Tascone also backed the provision of free RATs for vulnerable groups.

"There's been a lot of



commentary on whether governments should make these free for Australians and I couldn't agree more, especially for concession card holders and pensioners," he said.

"We need to do something to help make these tests affordable for Australians, particularly if we are going to require them to go to work, or travel, or it they're a close contact."

MEANWHILE, a spokesperson for the discount giant told *Pharmacy Daily*, that despite rising costs from wholesalers, the group had maintained prices at the same level as they were when RATs were initially made available through pharmacies on 01 Nov 2021.

Benzene fears prompt sunscreen recall

EDGEWELL Personal Care Australia Pty Ltd has issued a product recall for three of its Banana Boat sunscreen spray products, after benzene was detected in four batches supplied in Australia.

The products include the Banana Boat Ultra Very High Protection Clear Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+ (AUST L 206508), Simply Protect Kids Very High Protection

Sunscreen Lotion Spray SPF 50+ (AUST L 311003) and Dry Balance Very High Protection Clear Sunscreen Spray SPF 50+ (AUST L 342636).

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has advised that all batches with an expiry date of 31 Jan 2024 or earlier should not be used due to possible health risks associated with benzene.

ePrescription orders with the click of a button!

Fast token send is now included on all eRx digital tokens

Connect your pharmacy today

eRx script exchange

eRx.com.au



With fully integrated e-Prescriptions, dispensing has never been easier.

Contact us today to find out how to start dispensing with Dispense Works.
www.posworks.com.au | enquiries@posworks.com.au | 07 3277 9488

DISPENSE WORKS
PHARMACY SOFTWARE

KEEP UP TO DATE. ORDER YOUR 2022 EDITION NOW!



AMH AUSTRALIAN MEDICINES HANDBOOK

Dispensary Corner

BEING one of the most accessible health professionals, and supplying lifesaving medications puts pharmacists on the frontline when it comes to dealing with bad behaviour. It also exposes them to threats from criminal elements within society, with pharmacies frequently targeted by robbers. While the experience of facing a robbery is traumatic in itself, it can be even worse when the perpetrators turn to violence, as happened during a raid on a pharmacy in Kumasi, Ghana, last week. Pharmacy owner, Aaron Ohene Agyei, was spotted in his car as the robbers were fleeing the store with an unspecified sum of money and staff members' mobile phone, when one bandit shot him in the stomach, while an accomplice fired at his tyres. However, despite suffering a significant wound the pharmacist managed to drive himself almost 6.5km to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital for treatment. The Community Practice Pharmacists Association of Ghana reported that there has been a rise in the number of attacks on pharmacies over the last 12 months.



Suspension put on hold

MOVES to suspend a pharmacist's professional registration relating to historical misconduct have been put on hold by the Supreme Court of Western Australia. The Court backed Felecia Hamilton's request for a stay on a suspension issued by the State Administrative Tribunal on 20 Oct 2021, while an appeal against the two-and-a-half-year ban was considered. Hamilton's suspension had been due to commence on 19 Dec 2021, after she admitted engaging in professional misconduct between 26 Aug 2008 and 30 Apr 2009, in connection with dispensing androgenic steroids to patients pursuant to prescriptions issued by medical practitioners. She also accepted that she should have known that the quantities and combinations prescribed were not necessary for any therapeutic purpose, and that supply of the medications "were likely to constitute an unacceptable hazard to health". In granting a stay on Hamilton's suspension, the Supreme Court of

Western Australia noted that she "has reasonably good prospects of establishing that the suspension of her registration as a pharmacist for a period of two and a half years was manifestly excessive". The Court noted that Hamilton has been a practising pharmacist since Dec 2000, and the misconduct occurred more than 12 years ago during an eight-month period, and that prior to the Tribunal's decision her right to practice had not be subject to any relevant restriction or limitation. The Court added that evidence before the Tribunal had shown that Hamilton was a "generally competent pharmacist and, indeed, has particular skills, including in complex compounding of medications that have been of great benefit to her patients' health outcomes". "The suspension of the appellant's registration for a substantial period would have a devastating financial impact on the appellant," the Court said. Hamilton's appeal will be heard on 12 Apr.

Guild Update

COVID-19 vaccinations for ages 5-11

FROM 10 January, vaccinations against COVID-19 will be available specifically formulated for children five to 11 years of age. With school resumptions around a month away, Pharmacy Guild National President, Professor Trent Twomey, is encouraging early take-up of this chance to protect young Australians, using www.findapharmacy.com.au. His children aged 10 and eight are among the 2.27 million young Australians eligible. Already, more than 95 per cent of five year-olds are vaccinated against other diseases. COVID vaccine supplies are available, based on Australian Government advice that 151 million doses are secured for the future. This will help meet the new demand among children but also as boosters for adults and for the immunocompromised. Pharmacists have accelerated the national effort against COVID; more than 93 per cent of the population aged 16 plus and more than 76 per cent of 12 to 15 year-olds are now vaccinated.

Unique opportunities in remote practice

FORMER Pharmacy Guild of Australia Intern of the Year, David Paulmert, highlights the unique opportunities he has experienced working on Thursday Island, in the latest episode of Raven's Recruitment's *Your Pharmacy Career Podcast*. Having started his career in Port Douglas in 2018, Paulmert took up a position on Thursday Island early last year, where he works as part of a team that services the medication needs of Torres Strait Islander people



across 15 islands, including organising helicopters and barges to deliver supplies. **CLICK HERE** to listen to the latest episode.

Pharmacy Daily
www.pharmacydaily.com.au
 Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.
 Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

EDITORIAL
 Editor in Chief and Publisher – Bruce Piper
 Editor – Nicholas O'Donoghue
 Contributors – Adam Bishop, Myles Stedman
info@pharmacydaily.com.au

ADVERTISING AND MARKETING
 Sean Harrigan, Hoda Alzubaidi
advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au
BUSINESS MANAGER
 Jenny Piper
accounts@pharmacydaily.com.au

Suite 1, Level 2, 64 Talavera Rd
 Macquarie Park NSW 2113 Australia
 PO Box 1010 Epping NSW 1710 Australia
 Tel: 1300 799 220 (+61 2 8007 6760)
 Sign up free at www.pharmacydaily.com.au

Pharmacy Daily is a publication of Pharmacy Daily Pty Ltd ABN 97 124 094 604. All content fully protected by copyright. Please obtain written permission to reproduce any material. While every care has been taken in the preparation of the newsletter no liability can be accepted for errors or omissions. Information is published in good faith to stimulate independent investigation of the matters canvassed. Responsibility for editorial comment is taken by Bruce Piper.

Travel Daily
 CRUISE WEEKLY
 Travel & Cruise Weekly
 travelBulletin
 business events news