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SA reviewing mass vaccination clinics

SA HEALTH is working with primary healthcare providers, including pharmacists, to assess the need for additional vaccination clinics to support increased demand for COVID-19 boosters.

Speaking in the Legislative Council following changes to the eligibility criteria for booster shots, SA Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Chris Picton, said the State would work to ensure accessibility to vaccination services.

“We have obviously been in a stage where the number of people coming forward to our vaccination hubs have been quite minimal, and we have been in a position where

it didn't make sense to continue to have a whole lot of health staff who could have otherwise been deployed in our health system - which is obviously under significant pressure at the moment - not there providing services because the number of people was so low,” he said.

“We know that there is a plentiful supply of the vaccine, and obviously we need to work with our GPs, pharmacies and health clinics through SA Health to make sure that they are available.

“But now, with this increased

demand that we are going to be seeing, we need to make sure that there will be the availability, so we need to make sure we are doing that rapid work over the next couple of days to ensure that the vaccine is as available as possible because we want as many people as possible who are eligible to come forward to protect themselves, to protect their community and ultimately make sure that we can reduce as much as possible the incidence of COVID-19 in SA.”

TWC masterclass

TERRYWHITE Chemmart (TWC) franchisees can book their place at the group's 2023 Masterclass event.

See **page four** for more.

Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news plus a full page from **TerryWhite Chemmart**.

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Reference: 1. Spada F et al. Dermatol Ther 2021;34(4):e14970. (n=100) Study sponsored by Ego Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.
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Phones running hot for booster dose

PHARMACIES across the country are seeing a sharp rise in patients seeking appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations since the eligibility criteria were extended last week (PD 07 Jul).

Pharmacists from Far North Queensland to Tasmania have reported that phone lines have been "running hot" with people looking to get a fourth dose.

A Pharmacy Guild of Australia spokesperson told **Pharmacy Daily** that there "has been a marked rise in bookings and enquiries about getting booster shots".

Speaking with *ABC News*, Guild ACT Branch President, Simon Blacker, warned Canberrans that there could initially be delays in accessing vaccine supplies following the revised Australian Technical

Advisory Group on Immunisation recommendations.

"Pharmacies in the ACT are always carrying COVID vaccinations, there may be some short-term logistical supply issues just as we ramp up to cope with this new surge in demand, but pharmacies generally are carrying adequate supply and there should be no shortages in the longer term," he said.

"As word of the announcement was out, certainly we had phone calls and people coming into the pharmacy, and I think every pharmacy across Canberra probably had a surge in interest that afternoon, and we've seen that continue over the last few days.

"This greater cohort being eligible [will] see probably longer wait times now coming for



appointments, so I'd ask that the community be patient, you will be able to get your vaccination at some stage, but it just may take a week or two or three longer than you might have thought."

MEANWHILE, Guild Tasmanian Branch President, Helen O'Byrne, called on the State Government to support pharmacies to deliver medicines - including COVID-19 antivirals - to patients, following the conclusion of the Federal Government's Home Medicines Service.

Seqirus extends vax discounts

VACCINATION manufacturer, Seqirus, will continue to offer discounted rates for its cell-based Flucelvax Quad influenza vaccine until the end of 2022.

The company reduced the wholesale price of the vaccine in response to the rollout of State Government funded vaccination campaigns last month (PD 27 Jun).

Seqirus Vaccines and Biosecurity Medical Director, Dr Daniel Furtner, said the company wanted to ensure Australian have access to cell-based vaccination technology.

DDS maintains access to meds in floods

NSW-BASED Pharmacy Manager, Olivia Dawson, from Gillieston Heights Discount Drug Store (DDS) has stepped up to support patients in the flood-affected suburb.

With support from the SES and the Thornton DDS team, Dawson was ferried across floodwaters to keep the pharmacy open for stranded residents in need of essential medicines, with the Gillieston store the sole pharmacy in operation in the area.

"The NSW flood crisis continues to have a devastating impact on our community and as the only pharmacy that residents have access to in the area," she said.



"We are committed to remaining open so that they have access to essential medications and health supplies."

Dawson has pledged to remain in the isolated suburb while the floods persist.

Pictured, Gillieston Heights DDS Pharmacy Manager, Olivia Dawson.

Pharmacy Guild Update

World Hepatitis Day

WORLD Hepatitis Day being held on Thursday 28 July is an opportunity to raise national and international efforts on hepatitis, encourage actions and engagement by individuals, partners and the public, and highlight the need for a greater global response.

The theme for 2022 is 'Hepatitis Can't Wait', which highlights the need to accelerate hepatitis B and hepatitis C elimination efforts, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also highlights social injustice and inequity caused by the current lack of action on hepatitis elimination and focuses on the positive action needed to get on track to meet 2030 elimination goals.

In Australia, approximately 220,000 people are living with lifelong hepatitis B and many are unaware they have the virus. There is a safe and effective vaccine to protect you against getting hep B. You can get treatment to manage chronic hepatitis B but not cure it.

More details of World Hepatitis Day are available [here](#).

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Dispensary Corner

GERMAN pharmacists are seeking to retain control over the sale of cannabis products, if legislation to legalise recreational products is passed.

With prescription products currently available exclusively through pharmacies in Germany, the Federal Association of German Pharmacists is urging the Government to utilise the existing retail network to supply non-medical ranges of the drug.

"If cannabis is to be sold in pharmacies for consumption purposes, then it should only be sold in pharmacies," the association said.

"With different distribution channels, it will be difficult to enforce uniform, high consumer-protection standards."



Nail gun bandits busted



THIEVES who held up an ACT pharmacy armed with a nail gun, a hammer and a syringe on Sun night have been apprehended.

The duo - a 32-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman - were stopped by ACT Police shortly after 11pm on the Monaro Highway, following the raid at a pharmacy in O'Connor.

The suspects allegedly entered the pharmacy brandishing the weapons and demanded cash and prescription medications, before fleeing the scene in a stolen Toyota Hilux.

Officers attempted to stop the vehicle in Campbell, but the bandits accelerated away, before the Territory Targeting Team deployed

stop sticks, which brought the ute to a stop.

The male driver subsequently tested positive for a prescription medication, and was charged with a range of offences including, aggravated robbery with an offensive weapon, possessing an offensive weapon with intent, failing to stop for police, disqualified driving, drug driving, and driving a motor vehicle without consent.

His female accomplice was also charged with aggravated robbery with an offensive weapon, riding in a motor vehicle without consent and possessing an offensive weapon with intent.

Guardian Kids' Guide a success

THE number of Australian parents accessing Guardian Pharmacy's Healthy Kids Guide series has quadrupled in 2022, compared to previous years.

The annual campaign recorded more than two million visits, with videos about sun safety, preventative health and eczema being the top performing resources.

Head of Guardian Pharmacy, Kurt O'Brien, said parents have been using the free guide to access reliable information for more than 20 years.

"Through our Healthy Kids' Guide Series, we are further connecting families to their local Guardian pharmacists, increasing awareness of our pharmacies and pointing parents towards a trusted source of healthcare information," he said.

"This year, we've made it even easier for our customers to access trusted care through our dedicated online hub and in-store QR codes, and we are steadfast in our commitment to providing our communities with trusted healthcare advice."



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Pharmacy Daily is part of the Business Publishing Group family of publications.

Pharmacy Daily is Australia's favourite pharmacy industry publication.

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