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Today's issue of PD

Pharmacy Daily today features three pages of news, a front cover from EzyMed and full pages from:

- Flo
- Nova Pharmaceuticals



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Guild losing patience with Premiers

STATE Premiers will be held accountable for the health and economic fallout of future COVID-19 outbreaks, if they do not engage community pharmacies in the vaccine rollout program.

Citing data published by the ABC showing Australia will not achieve herd immunity until Oct 2022 at the current vaccination rate, Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, said it "defies logic not to use pharmacies" to boost uptake.

Speaking with *Pharmacy Daily*, Twomey said the decision to approve community pharmacies to administer COVID-19 shots, "sits firmly with the State Premiers" and urged them to follow Queensland's example in approving 56 rural

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pharmacies to take part in the campaign (*PD* 20 May).

"The Guild is losing patience with State Premiers," he said.

"And we will hold them personally responsible for the health outcomes, but also the economic damage of future lockdowns due to COVID outbreaks."

Twomey said that while mass vaccination sites that have been established by State Government

"have a role" to play in the immunisation campaign, he said, "it makes zero logic, in fact it's riskier to enable mass vaccination centres before community pharmacies".

The Guild National President confirmed the Queensland Government had said it will look to expand the number of pharmacies involved in the COVID vaccination program once the initial 56 stores have started administering shots, which is due to happen by mid-Jun.

Breathe easy

A **BLOCKED** or runny nose can impact breathing and affect sleep.

Flo's range of isotonic nasal saline sprays and sinus washes can help clearout build ups of mucus and germs to allow patients to breathe easy. See **page four** for more.

Ezy DAA solution

EZYMED is inviting pharmacies to outsource dose administration aid (DAA) services, with the first month free and then three months at half price - see the **cover page**.

It's bean good

NOVA Pharmaceuticals is thanking delegates at APP for dropping by its stand to sample its gluten-free Glucoboost jellybeans and to learn about the alcohol-free Bubs & Co teething gel. See **page five** for more.

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TGA fines Pete Evans - again

CELEBRITY chef, Pete Evans, is back in the spotlight with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for failing to remove non-compliant advertising.

The TGA issued infringement notices totalling \$79,920 to Peter Evans Chef Pty Ltd, of which Evans is the sole director, over ads relating to hyperbaric oxygen therapy chambers, two oral medicines and the BioCharger devices, which were not included on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG).

“Due to the repeated nature of the alleged advertising breaches, the TGA has also issued a directions notice to Mr Evans and his company, to cease advertising therapeutic goods not entered in the ARTG and to discontinue making various claims,” the TGA said.

COVAX rollout can't remain a strollout

MELBOURNE'S latest COVID-19 outbreak highlights the urgent need to bolster vaccination capacity and accelerated the immunisation campaign, Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victorian Branch President, Anthony Tassone, believes.

Tassone told *Pharmacy Daily* that the cluster in the city's north, which has reached 15 confirmed cases has sparked an increase in demand for vaccinations across the community.

“Pharmacies stand ready to take the field and help turn this vaccine stroll-out into a roll-out that will help Australians get protected against this potentially deadly virus,” he said.

“Every day across Victoria and Australia at the moment, pharmacists are administering flu vaccinations to their patients and being asked when their pharmacy will be able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Besides the 56 locations in



Queensland that were announced last week (**PD 20** May) – no other pharmacies know when they will be able to participate.

“The time has well and truly come, the virus is still with us, we need to protect our communities – get pharmacies off the bench and into the game.”

Tassone described the emergence of the new cluster as “a chilling reminder of the events of 2020”, noting that yesterday marked the anniversary of the start of Melbourne's second wave.

“It is still early days as to what impact there has or will be on pharmacies, but there have been media reports of panic buying behaviour like we saw in supermarkets last year occurring in the northern suburbs of Melbourne,” he said.

“At this stage, there has not been any lockdown measures announced by the Victorian government over and above some restrictions on private and public gatherings, and the need for mask wearing indoors.”

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PBS structures impacting shortages

POLICY settings need to be adjusted to combat the growing number of medicines supply shortages being experienced across the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), former Commonwealth Department of Health Secretary, Jane Halton, warns.

Speaking as part of panel discussion at the Australian Pharmacy Professional Conference (APP) last week, Halton, who is now the Independent Chair of the Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association (GBMA) highlighted concerns over medicines shortages.

"The challenge we've got in a world of global shortage, there are threats to the supply of medicines in Australia," she said.

"Since the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA's) been tracking this in the last two years, there's been 21 medicines shortages in F1.

"Supply reliability is something we worry about, and I would argue



that the current structures in F2 are actually going to make that worse."

Halton warned that if Australia could not access supplies of essential medicines, the nation would struggle to continue its "proud record" as having one of the best health systems in the world.

"We need to make sure that we get equitable access to all of those [PBS] medicines," she said.

"[And] if our current policy

settings are actually causing difficulty in delivering that certainly we need to have that conversation."

Pharmacy Guild of Australia National President, Trent Twomey, also flagged concerns about supply shortages, during the session, noting the number one cause of medicines misadventure in Australia was patients running out of their medicines.



Dispensary Corner

HAVING surgery has become a little more daunting, after it emerged that a former security guard conned staff at Lahore's Mayo Hospital into believing he was a surgeon.

The man had been fired from the Pakistani hospital's security team two years ago.

However, he returned to the clinic on 17 May and talked his way into an operating theatre where he performed an emergency procedure on a female patient who had presented with boils.

The fake surgeon continued to "treat" the patient at the patient's home for two days, before being rumbled when her condition deteriorated.

A spokesperson for the hospital told ARY News that two staff members had been suspended following the incident, while Dr Iftikhar Ahmed said an internal committee has been established to investigate.

Punjab Health Minister, Dr Yasmin Rashid, has ordered local health authorities to look into how the security guard was able to perform a surgery without anyone at the hospital questioning his credentials.



WA polities back pharmacy flu jab

WESTERN Australian politicians are teaming up with Wizard Pharmacy to encourage members of the community to get the influenza vaccine ahead of the COVID-19 jab rollout.

Wizard Chief Pharmacist, Jeanette Drury, said nine State MLAs have had their shot at the group's stores, with uptake of the vaccine this year 40% lower than at the same time in 2020.

The low numbers have prompted concerns that poor uptake could see a surge in flu cases presenting at hospitals across the State.

COVID warning for Melb pharmacies

CUSTOMERS at two pharmacies in Melbourne's north are being told to get tested for COVID-19 urgently and isolate until they get a negative result, following the city's latest outbreak.

The Victorian Government has urged people who were at Chemist Warehouse Dalton Village, Epping on 19 May between 6.45pm and 8pm, or Chemist Depot Epping at the Pacific Epping Shopping Centre on 23 May between 11.15am and midday to get tested.

Shoppers who were on Levels 2 and 3 of the Highpoint Shopping



Centre on 20 May, between 5.15pm and 6.35pm - where there is a Priceline Pharmacy - and at Epping North Shopping Centre after 8.30pm on 24 May, - which houses the Lyndarum Pharmacy Select - have been identified as Tier 2 locations.



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