We're for wow era









Authorities order hundreds of thousands extra flu shots to beat national shortage

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BRIGID O'CONNELL AND ROB HARRIS

MELBOURNE scientists have been ordered to mass-produce 500,000 doses of flu vaccine within days amid a national shortage that has Australia's stocks almost exhausted.

Health authorities are rationing the few remaining injections due to record demand around the country.

The rush follows last year's horror flu season, which struck down 250,000 Australians and killed 1100, including a number of children.

The overtime operation will use more than 460,000 $\hat{\text{e}}$ ggs each day — to grow the vaccine inside — and will need more than 600 workers to get 500,000 doses ready.

More than 1.5 million Victorians have already been vaccinated this year, in addition to private sessions through pharmacies and workplaces, with 50.000 doses being distributed by the health department on most days this month.

As Victoria's top doctor yesterday urged healthy adults to put off having the flu jab, so precious remaining vials could be saved for vulnerable people,

the federal government announced it will secure an extra 800,000 doses by the end of July.

Melbourne will lead the charge with 500,000 doses to be manufactured in Parkville.

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NEW LAWS TO GET HIT-RUN HOONS OFF ROAD

HIT-run drivers and those involved in fatal crashes could lose their licence immediately in a bid to get dangerous motorists off the roads.

Victoria Police and the Department of Justice and Regulation are formulating new laws targeting high-risk

EXCLUSIVE ALEKS DEVIC

Now, motorists can only have their licences suspended if magistrates make it part of their bail conditions, while police only have the power to suspend or cancel licences immediately for drunk and

drugged drivers. Under the proposed crackdown, to be put to the state government in coming months, police would have the power to immediately strip the licence of a driver charged with serious traffic crimes, including death crashes.

The Herald Sun recently

revealed police investigated 736 hit-and-run incidents in Victoria in 2017.

This figure prompted the state's top traffic cop, Doug Fryer, to blast the runaway drivers as "un-Australian" and lacking "any kind of human decency"

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Flu jab SOS as national vaccine stocks run low

FROM PAGE 1

Almost 10 million doses have already been released this flu season through government-subsidised programs and on the private market, which is an increase of 26 per cent from last year.

Australia's Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr Anthony Hobbs said they had this week distributed 93,000 doses of the trivalent vaccine for older people across the country, with the first 150,000 quadrivalent doses to arrive in Australia next week.

Just three months after finishing manufacturing this season's vaccine, Parkville's Seqirus Australia vaccine manufacturing company will restart its production of the adult quadrivalent vaccine.

Victoria's Chief Health Officer, Professor Charles Guest, said record demand for immunisation had forced them to now prioritise remaining doses to those most at risk of serious complications from the flu.

This includes pregnant women, those aged over 65 years and under five, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and people with chronic medical conditions.

"There is vaccine available, primarily in GP fridges, but you just need to phone around to find out where it is," Prof Guest said. "Already we've immunised more people than



we did last year. I would expect the spread this year to be lower than it was last year.

"We are encouraging people to think about those in the highest risk groups right now. I'm hoping in the coming weeks we'll have more vaccine for others as well."

Demand is expected to be strong when a novel program kicks off next weekend to get tradies and home-handymen "tooled up" and vaccinated against the winter lurgy — all with a sausage in hand.

Middle-aged men have emerged as the hardest-to-reach group by doctors this winter, particularly in struggling communities from Melbourne's west, prompting North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network to bring the flu jab to them at Bunnings stores in Altona and Broadmeadows.

NWM Primary Health Network chief Associate Professor Chris Carter said they expected to immunise at least 200 people on each day. It follows the success of the network's Vaccination Cafe project, where the flu jab came with a free coffee at Melbourne Town Hall last month.

"It's important for themselves, because the flu is a pretty devastating illness that can knock you out and take you off work," Associate Prof Carter said. "But it's important to be immunised for your family, and the community in general to reduce the spread."

The desperate scrambling comes as a Melbourne health network launches a new campaign to offer free flu jabs at select Bunnings stores next weekend. The aim is to get hard-to-reach middle aged men from battler suburbs vaccinated both for their health and to boost herd immunity.

The vaccination sessions will be held in for Altona on June 2, and Broadmeadows on June 3.

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High-risk drivers could lose licence immediately

FROM PAGE 1

Many drivers who vanished, leaving their victims bleeding on roadsides, were high on drugs, drunk, in stolen cars and/or unlicensed.

Police Minister Lisa Neville yesterday confirmed hit run and killer driver laws were under review.

"The Andrews Labor Government has commenced a review of the operation of laws relevant to suspension and cancellation of driver's licences of a person charged with serious traffic crimes, including those which have resulted in death," she said.

"This review ... will examine whether the current arrangements provide adequate protection to Victorian road users."

Jeynelle Dean-Hayes has been fighting to change the law since her son, Tyler Dean, 18, was killed in a hit-run crash last year, with the accused driver free and still able to drive.

"It's about trying to keep other families safe, and if it has happened, don't let these people out there to give it a second go," she said.

"They have proven they are unsafe on the road. There are

so many hit runs now and the crime is not being taken as seriously as it should be."

As part of the state government review, sentencing decisions and bail conditions will also be examined to determine if courts have been imposing relevant licence suspensions.

Early this month, 14-yearold Aivy Nguyen died after being hit by a truck while heading to school.

The truck driver did not stop but later handed himself in and has since been released pending inquiries.

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Product Safety Recall Dymples Portacot

The safety of BIG W customers is our first priority and we wish to advise of a product recall on the following product:



DESCRIPTION: 8286069 Dymples Portacot. The article number can be found sewn into the mattress and cot.

This product has been sold in BIG W nationally from 11/12/14 to 24/05/18.

DEFECT: The product does not comply with various material, design, safety, performance and marking requirements of Australian Standard AS/NZS 2195:2010 - Folding Cot.

HAZARD: There is a risk of injury to the occupant.

ACTION REQUIRED: Customers should immediately cease using the product and return it to any BIG W store for a full refund.

BIG W apologises to its customers for any inconvenience caused by this recall.

For further information

Please direct all calls and any queries concerning this recall to Customer service on telephone: **1300 244 999**

See www.recalls.gov.au for Australian Product Recall Information NEWS

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Unsolved mystery: Do you recognise this man?

() 1h ago



🗣 Sex fiend released on long leash



🛨 How Melb men can grab flu shot amid national shortage

TRADIES and suburban home-handymen will be able to get a flu shot - all with a sausage in hand this weekend as the government tackles a vaccine shortfall by ordering Melbourne scientists to mass produce 500,000 doses within days.

(3h ago



New laws to get hit-run hoons off road

HIT-run drivers and those involved in fatal crashes could lose their licence immediately in a bid to not dangerous motorists



💠 Drugs scandal cancer will never go away

THE cancer born from the Essendon supplements scandal won't go away. It rears its head occasionally and in



🗣 Kylie's still spinning around for us at 50

IT'C hard to baliave our Cinging Budgie is turning



