



MEDIA RELEASE



THE PHARMACY GUILD OF
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TASMANIAN BRANCH

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VACCINE SAFETY: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE CONSUMER AWARENESS

General Practice Tasmania and the Tasmanian Branch of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia have jointly launched a flyer to improve consumer awareness of the need to take care when transporting vaccines purchased from pharmacies.

The joint awareness campaign is a tangible demonstration of the way in which health care organisations can and do, work together for community benefit.

General Practice Tasmania Immunisation spokesperson Dr Leanne Jones said that most people were not aware that, because vaccines were delicate biological substances, they were very sensitive to changes in temperature and light.

“Because they are so delicate, vaccines should not be exposed to sunlight or fluorescent light for extended periods of time,” Dr Jones said.

“Most importantly, vaccines should be kept between +2 deg C and +8 deg C to make sure that they provide effective cover against disease.”

The General Practice Tasmania network is a unique statewide infrastructure that supports contemporary general practice in Tasmania by linking GPs with each other, by supporting all members of the general practice team and, increasingly, by employing or supporting allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, dieticians and psychologists to be part of the primary care team. General Practice Tasmania is also a proud member of the Australian General Practice Network.

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The new vaccine management flyers have been produced by General Practice Tasmania in collaboration with the Pharmacy Guild in order to raise community awareness about this important issue. The flyers will complement new cold packs produced by the Gold Cross, which have been updated to include a message about taking care of vaccine.

The flyers and cold packs will be available through pharmacies and consumers should talk to their pharmacist about the best way to transport vaccines to their doctor.

GPs will also continue to advise patients about care in vaccine transport.

President of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Tasmanian Branch John Dowling said there was an important message for consumers in the campaign.

“That message is that if your pharmacy cannot deliver the vaccine for you, take it straight to your doctor once you pick it up.

“Importantly, don’t store it in your car or in your home refrigerator because it can easily be damaged,” Mr Dowling said.

Contact Details:

General Practice Tasmania Immunisation spokesperson, Dr Leanne Jones may be contacted on phone: (03) 6331 2722 or on mobile phone 0418 384 078

Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Tasmanian Branch Director, Louise Sullivan can be contacted on phone 0418122222.

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