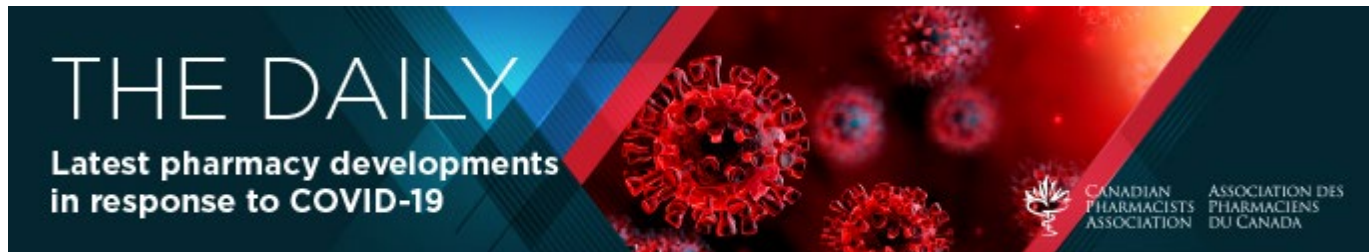


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: March 20, 2020 5:41 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 20



March 20, 2020

CPhA

CPhA meets with Minister of Health Patty Hajdu

CPhA had a call with the federal Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, on Friday to convey the important message that pharmacists are stepping up to play a critical role for patients during the pandemic and to reiterate that CPhA and the entire profession is here to help. We took the opportunity to inform the minister of some of the challenges pharmacists on the front lines are currently facing, including exponential volumes of patients relying on pharmacies for both information and managing symptoms, and an increase in the number of patients trying to renew prescriptions earlier than they normally would. We also highlighted two of our most pressing concerns: focusing on the need for pharmacists to be included in personal protective equipment allocations to ensure their safety and the challenges with managing supply. We also discussed some of the challenges in ramping up home deliveries. The Minister thanked the profession for going above and beyond for patients, and committed to continued engagement and support as we all navigate these times together.

Managing COVID-19 Day-to-Day: More Answers to Pharmacists' FAQs: Webinar registration now open

As the pharmacy profession grapples with providing effective patient care while preventing the spread of infection during COVID-19, pharmacists have many new questions. As a follow-up to our March 11 [COVID-19 FAQ webinar](#), CPhA is bringing together McKesson Canada's Smita Patil, University of Waterloo pharmacy professor Kelly Grindrod and Pharmasave's Annette Robinson to answer your latest questions on managing day-to-day during a pandemic. The webinar will take place Monday, March 23 at 1:00pm EDT and is freely available to all pharmacists. [Register here](#).

Support to protect the front line

A key focus of CPhA's COVID-19 efforts is to ensure pharmacists are appropriately protected, recognized as essential providers and have access to PPE. Much of our public messaging continues to highlight the front line role of the pharmacy profession and the need for such protection. We will continue to develop resources and [graphics](#) with a "protect the front line" message. Join us on social media by using the hashtag #ProtectTheFrontLine and/or sharing [CPhA's posts](#). New assets will be added to our [resource web page](#) as they are developed.

COVID-19 resources available in French

CPhA is working hard to ensure all our COVID-19 information and resources are available in both official languages. We are doing our best to ensure the shortest possible time between posting English and French resources and updates, and we appreciate your patience with any delays. Most of our currently available resources are now posted in both English and French at www.pharmacists.ca/covid19 and www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr.

National

Health Canada issues Information Update on use of ibuprofen and COVID-19

Reinforcing CPhA's statement from March 17, Health Canada issued an Information Update stating that while it is aware of reports that reference safety issues with the use of ibuprofen in COVID-19 cases, there is no scientific evidence that establishes a link between ibuprofen and the worsening of COVID-19 symptoms. [Read the update.](#)

Provincial

PANL Public Advisory: pharmacists reminding patients to call before visiting the pharmacy

As the province takes steps to limit the spread of COVID-19, the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) is asking patients to call their pharmacy before visiting, particularly if they have, or are concerned about having, symptoms of the virus. In a [Public Advisory](#) released on March 19, PANL President Janice Audeau reinforces the need to keep front line pharmacists safe, and outlines important clinical reasons why pharmacists might not be able to refill all prescriptions.

International

American pharmacist advocacy groups release joint policy recommendations to enhance COVID-19 patient care

Pharmacy organizations representing the interests of all pharmacists in the United States have released a joint set of [policy recommendations](#) critical to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The [recommendations](#) include authorizing test-treat-immunize, easing operational barriers, addressing shortages and continuity of care, and reimbursing for services and removing barriers. The pharmacy profession urges the COVID-19 Task Force and appropriate agencies to adopt these and other recommended measures immediately.

Australian Minister for Health thanks pharmacists

Australian Minister for Health Greg Hunt issued an [open letter](#) thanking pharmacists and community pharmacy staff for their "extraordinary dedication and service to the Australian community" during this unprecedented time. His letter points to measures enacted by the government to minimise the impacts of panic buying and potential for medicine shortages, such as limits on dispensing prescription products to one month's supply; limits on dispensing and sales of all other medicines to one month's supply or one unit; and new controls on high-demand over-the-counter medicines, which enable these products to be placed behind the counter to assist in allocating supply equitably.

Pharmacies across the UK close 'intermittently' to cope with increasing pressures from COVID-19

Pharmacies across the UK are [closing intermittently](#) throughout each day to maintain staff wellbeing and patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Notices will be up stating when pharmacies are open, but intermittent closure is necessary to allow safe working conditions and full attention to patients. Fewer patients will be allowed into the pharmacy at one time. Community Pharmacy Scotland has said it is expecting to agree to an interim opening hours policy with the Scottish government that will allow pharmacies to close for a couple of hours each day to clean and "regroup." An increasing number of pharmacies are also looking into the possibility of operating behind closed doors, which would allow extra demand to be managed uninterrupted and safely and allow the more urgent work for vulnerable patients to be prioritized.

Newsworthy

Worth repeating

"We don't just need to flatten the curve; we need to plank it. And we need everyone, from government to communities, families and individual to work together. We all have to get it right, and to get it right right now. This is our chance, right here, right now." – Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, lays it on the line.

"Pharmacists know their medications, physicians know their patients' medical history and their prescriptions. These are the individuals that need to be consulted before jumping to the internet ... I don't remember the last time the internet graduated from either medical school or pharmacy school." – OPA's Allan Malek on ibuprofen and COVID-19.

This daily COVID-19 update is compiled by the Canadian Pharmacists Association. To unsubscribe, please reply to this email with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Please note that this publication is meant to inform and is not a comprehensive list of information available. Be sure to check with your provincial regulatory authority or advocacy association for province-specific information. While we aim to ensure all information contained in this update is accurate, the situation is evolving rapidly and CPhA does not take responsibility for the content provided by other organizations and sources.