

**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** July 8, 2020 4:04 PM  
**Subject:** The Weekly: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for July 8



**\*\*Beginning the week of July 6, CPhA's The Daily will become The Weekly and will be published on Wednesdays.\*\***

**July 8, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***New mask posters now available***

In accordance with the latest information from the Public Health Agency of Canada and further to increasing jurisdictional calls for masks to be worn in public places, CPhA has developed a poster for pharmacies to support this messaging with patients and customers. The posters are available in both English ([colour](#) and [black & white](#)) and French ([colour](#) and [black & white](#)).

CPhA's COVID-19 web pages are being updated regularly at [www.pharmacists.ca/covid19](http://www.pharmacists.ca/covid19) and [www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr](http://www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr).

## **Provincial**

### ***Some experts are concerned about a coming flu and COVID-19 collision***

Quebec's public health authorities are preparing now to avoid a potential catastrophe later when flu season hits, particularly if a COVID-19 vaccine is not available, reports [CTV News Montreal](#). Quebec's Health Ministry has ordered 400,000 more influenza vaccines for this fall's public vaccination program than it did last year to try to increase vaccination rates among people at risk of complications and hospitalizations. For the past few years flu vaccines have been available and administered at many pharmacies across the province. Last year Quebec pharmacies purchased 200,000 doses of flu vaccine to sell to customers ineligible for the public plan from the Quebec Association of Pharmacy Distributors, according to its spokesperson, Huguhe Mousseau. Mousseau doesn't know yet if pharmacies have ordered more vaccines for the upcoming flu season than last year because the orders are still coming in, but he says if any want to up their stock afterwards he may not be able to fulfill the order because of such a limited supply.

## **National**

### ***Health Canada warns of counterfeit N95 respirators***

Health Canada has issued a product safety warning after identifying counterfeit respirators, which it says may not provide the proper protection. The agency said in a [safety notice](#) that Shanghai Lansheng Light Industrial Products was found to be selling counterfeit N95 respirators using another company's name—Shanghai Dasheng Health Products Manufacture Co. Ltd. Health Canada says these respirators were falsely labelled as approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), though they may not provide that level of protection.

### ***Health Canada expands hand sanitizer recall over industrial-strength ethanol***

Health Canada is expanding its recall of certain hand sanitizers over fears the products may include industrial-strength ethanol. The agency [warns Canadians](#) to be alert to the type of hand sanitizer they purchase as the list reaches 23 brands being recalled

for containing the ingredient, which is not authorized for use in Canadian hand sanitizers. “Industrial-grade ethanol contains impurities that are not found in the type of ethanol approved for use in manufacturing hand sanitizers... In addition, chemicals that may not be approved for use in hand sanitizers are added to industrial-grade ethanol,” says the notice.

### ***Survey: COVID-19 concerns are rising in Canada as the outbreak runs uncontrolled in the US***

As the number of new cases of COVID-19 being reported daily in Canada has declined over time, Canadians’ concerns about the spread of the disease have spiked. The uncontrolled outbreak south of the border might be the reason why. In a [survey](#) conducted by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies between July 3 and 5, 58% of respondents were personally afraid of contracting COVID-19. That figure has increased 7 percentage points in 2 weeks and is now the highest it has been in Leger’s weekly polling since mid-April. It is a notable shift in public opinion. Concern peaked in early April, when 64% of Canadians reported being personally afraid of getting sick. At the time, Canada was reporting over 1200 new cases every day.

### ***Two-thirds of Canadians support closing businesses again if COVID-19 cases spike: Survey***

A [new survey](#) suggests a majority of Canadians support closing non-essential businesses again if cases of COVID-19 spike. The poll, conducted by Nanos Research for CTV News, surveyed 1049 Canadians within the past week and found that two-thirds of respondents support (42%) or somewhat support (28%) another round of business closures in the event of a significant rise in cases and hospitalizations. About 1 in 4 Canadians oppose (16%) or somewhat oppose (11%) the idea.

### ***Canada yet to receive vaccine candidate from Chinese developer it reached an agreement with in May***

A leading COVID-19 vaccine candidate that was produced by a Chinese company and promoted for testing in Canada by the federal government in early May has yet to land in the hands of Canadian researchers, [iPolitics reports](#). “The Phase 1-2 trial of the CanSino vaccine, in Canada, has not started yet. It’s imminently going to start—just finishing the final approvals that are required to have the vaccine shipped to Canada,” said Dr. Scott Halperin, the director of the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV) at Dalhousie University, which will facilitate expedited testing of the CanSino vaccine. “Once that happens, we’ll be starting the trials here,” Halperin told MPs who took part in the House health committee’s virtual meeting on Monday.

### ***1 in 4 Canadians never wear a mask but making it mandatory finds little resistance***

Abacus Data surveyed Canadians’ attitudes towards wearing masks as a way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in a [new national survey](#) of 1500 Canadians. The findings show that a third of Canadians always wear a mask when they enter a public place like a retail outlet and a quarter never do. Men are significantly less likely to wear masks compared to women. Mask wearing is more common among the youngest and older adults, and resistance to wearing masks is highest among those in the 45-59 age group. Mask wearing is most common in Ontario and least common in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Atlantic Canada. If governments decide to make mask-wearing mandatory, there would be little opposition, with 14% of respondents reporting that they would oppose such a move, 62% would support it and another 24% would go along with it.

## **International**

### ***APhA responds to Senate white paper on public health preparedness amid COVID-19***

US patients would have benefited from full use of pharmacists in diagnostic testing, treatment and immunization planning services at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) said in a [letter](#) to Senator Lamar Alexander. Alexander chairs the powerful Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee. APhA submitted the letter in response to Alexander’s white paper on preparedness for future public health emergencies.

### ***Consistent classification of pharmacists as “frontline health workers” needed***

A [commentary](#) in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice* says that pharmacists should have always been considered frontline workers, especially amid COVID-19. The article states that there is no universal definition of what a frontline worker is, which leads to inconsistency on how to further classify essential workers globally during this pandemic. As a result, governments around the world have varied in how to, or even whether to, recognize the work of pharmacists during the pandemic. Whether in the community or hospital, pharmacists have been performing frontline roles, yet they are not universally being recognized as

frontline workers.

### ***FIP: Revised Holding Statement on use of masks***

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has revised its [Holding Statement](#) on the use of masks, [reflecting new recommendations](#) from the World Health Organization (WHO). The current position of FIP is that all pharmacists and other pharmacy workforce members should wear personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for their roles. In order to protect the public and themselves as health care workers, FIP recommends that those in patient-facing roles at least wear a medical mask in addition to other PPE that are part of droplet and contact precautions.

### ***WHO to review evidence of airborne transmission of COVID-19***

After hundreds of experts urged the WHO to review mounting scientific research, the agency acknowledged yesterday that airborne transmission of COVID-19 may be a threat in indoor spaces, the [New York Times reports](#). WHO expert committees are reviewing evidence on transmission of the virus and plan to release updated recommendations in a few days, agency scientists said in a news briefing. “The possibility of airborne transmission, especially in ‘crowded, closed, poorly ventilated settings, cannot be ruled out,’ says Dr. Benedetta Allegranzi, who leads the WHO’s committee on infection prevention and control.”

### ***WHO halts hydroxychloroquine, HIV drugs in COVID-19 trials after failure to reduce death***

WHO is discontinuing its trials of hydroxychloroquine and a combination HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir, also known as Kaletra, in hospitalized COVID-19 patients after the treatment failed to reduce mortality when compared to the standard of care, [Reuters notes](#). The decision, taken on the recommendation of an international steering committee overseeing the trial, does not affect other studies where the drugs are being tested for non-hospitalized patients or as a prophylaxis.

### ***Data show panic and disorganization dominate the study of COVID-19 drugs***

Researchers have designed a staggering 1200 clinical trials aimed at testing treatment and prevention strategies against COVID-19 since the start of January, but a new [STAT analysis](#) shows the effort has been marked by disorder and disorganization, with huge financial resources wasted. For instance, 1 in every 6 trials was designed to study the decades-old malaria drugs hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, which have been shown to have [no benefit](#) in hospitalized patients.

## **Worth Repeating**

“We supplied hand sanitizer, gloves and masks to people. We also installed plexiglass in the store. It was a tense time for our team as well, but we all knew we had an important job to do, and we took all the precautions we could.” — North Bay, ON, pharmacy manager Kristie Chute [talks about](#) how COVID-19 changed the way her pharmacy cares for their patients.

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

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