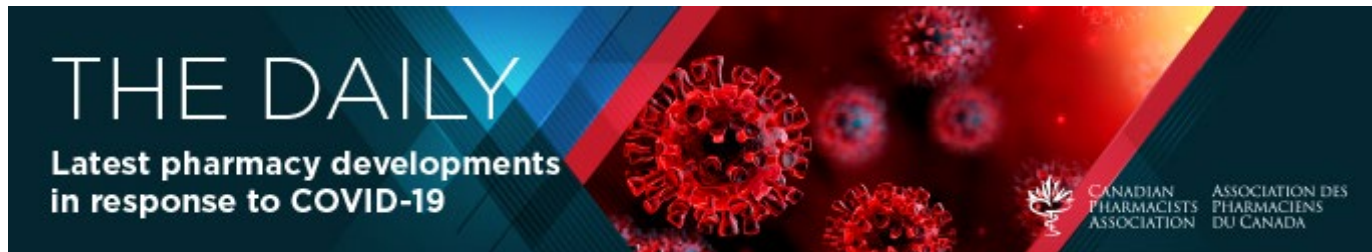


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** April 16, 2020 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 16



**April 16, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***Stepping Up blog: Doing what it takes to protect the drug supply***

The next post in CPhA chair Christine Hrudka's [Stepping Up blog \(en français\)](#) takes a closer look at some of the reasons behind the 30-day medication supply recommendations and why it is so important for everyone to work together to protect Canada's drug supply. "Managing Canada's drug supply has required an extraordinary effort, expertise and care by pharmacy teams under the most difficult of circumstances," she says.

### ***The COVID Conversations: Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness***

Front-line health care providers are at increased risk of moral injury when dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacists and their teams may be struggling with maintaining mental health and wellness while caring for their patients during this time. Join us on Wednesday, April 22 at 6pm ET for our latest COVID Conversations webinar where host Shelita Dattani will speak with a panel of pharmacists and mental health experts about strategies and tips to support pharmacy teams during the pandemic. Panellists include Jean-François Desgagné (Pharmacie Desgagné et Martin), Anita Gupta (Rehabilitation Psychologist), Heather Scarlett-Ferguson (Alberta Pharmacists' Association) and Karen Sue-A-Quan (Hospital for Sick Children). [Registration is now open.](#)

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**

### ***Plexiglass fund available for pharmacies***

The BC Ministry of Health and the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) have agreed to [reallocate a total of \\$110,000 in funding](#) from Health Canada for pharmacist opioid agonist treatment (OAT) training to provide funds for BC community pharmacies to help offset the cost of the purchasing and installation of physical barriers (e.g., plexiglass) between pharmacy staff and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will be allocated based on the number of applications received.

### ***PANL calls for pharmacists to be part of PPE allocation***

In a [letter to Newfoundland and Labrador Health Minister John Haggie](#), the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) is calling for the government to recognize community pharmacists and pharmacy staff as essential health care providers and include them as part of the PPE allocation process. "It is their duty to keep patients safe, but they can't succeed if they themselves aren't protected," says PANL executive director Jennifer Collingwood. "Our pharmacists are going above and beyond. They are there for their patients and their communities, and we need our government to be there for them. We are hopeful that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador will acknowledge their efforts and provide them with the supports they need to continue this important work."

## National

### ***PHAC resources available***

There are a number of [updated resources](#) available on the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) website for the public, as well as for health professionals, including an Outbreak Update and the COVID-19 Virtual Assistant to answer specific questions.

## International

### ***FIP COVID-19 webinar series***

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is presenting a special [weekly webinar series](#) for the month of April, Responding to the Pandemic Together. In the first of the series, the FIP headquarters team presents FIP guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ***CDC issues new guidance for pharmacies***

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued [updated safety guidance](#) for pharmacies amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The update includes a number of changes, including: 1) Everyone entering the pharmacy should wear a face covering, regardless of symptoms; 2) Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians should always wear a facemask while they are in the pharmacy for source control; 3) Postpone and reschedule delivery of some routine clinical preventive services, such as adult immunizations, which require face to face encounters; and 4) Special considerations for clinics that are co-located in pharmacies.

### ***Pfizer advances against COVID-19 on multiple fronts***

Pfizer has [announced](#) important advances in the battle against the global COVID-19 pandemic. The company has been collaborating across the health care innovation ecosystem and has highlighted several promising initiatives and advancements, including anti-viral compounds showing activity against SARS-CoV-2 in preclinical screening; a collaboration agreement with BioNTech to co-develop a potential COVID-19 vaccine; additional data and analysis of azithromycin; 2 new studies launched to provide insights on the interaction between *S. pneumoniae* and COVID-19; and possible studies of JAK inhibitor tofacitinib in patients with COVID-19-related pneumonia.

### ***RPS says no to repurposing unused medicines for end-of-life care***

The RPS has said that under no circumstances is it currently acceptable to supply patient-returned or date-expired medicines, even in end-of-life situations. Published in the [guidance on ethical, professional decision-making in the COVID-19 pandemic](#) document to support pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, the direction comes after the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) called on the government to allow the more effective use of medicines commonly used in end-of-life care during the pandemic and asked that these measures temporarily include the re-purposing of unused medicines for end-of-life care.

### ***RPS and GPhC make joint statement about volunteers delivering medicines***

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) have released a [joint statement](#) about the English community pharmacy delivery services that use volunteers. The statement highlights that pharmacy professionals acting in accordance with the standards and using NHS Volunteer Responders in good faith in line with the service specifications of the Pandemic Delivery Service will not be regarded as responsible for actions of other people outside of their control. To help pharmacy teams and volunteers provide safe care to patients and the public, the RPS has produced a [volunteering guidance](#) document that outlines what pharmacy professionals should consider when working with volunteers. The guidance also includes a table of the key tasks and roles for volunteers.

## Newsworthy

### ***As demand surges, half of prescriptions needed for COVID-19 patients on ventilators are going unfilled***

As the pandemic continues to spread across the US, prescriptions for medicines needed for COVID-19 patients who are placed on ventilators are being filled and shipped to hospitals only 53% of the time, down from 72% last month, according to [new data reported in STAT](#). The decline reflects surging demand for more than a dozen sedatives, anesthetics, painkillers, and muscle relaxants, which have been in short supply.

### **Worth Repeating**

“Some for every patient.” — Pharmacist Susan Beresford from the Kinburn Pharmasave in Mahone Bay, NS, explaining the 30-day supply limits in a [short video on Twitter](#).

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.