

**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
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**April 2, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***PPE Suggested Best Practices webinar***

This afternoon, CPhA hosted a third very well-attended and well-received COVID-19 FAQs webinar. Moderated by CPhA's Shelita Dattani, the webinar featured speakers Kamran Nisar (PharmaChoice), Christina Adams (Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists), Karey Shuhendler (Canadian Nurses Association) and Glenn Rodriguez (Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia) and focused on how to use personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect pharmacy staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The lively discussion covered appropriate use, donning, doffing, disposal and various scenarios where PPE might be required. More than 1500 pharmacists registered for the webinar, which will be available to all on our website soon. Special thanks from CPhA to Karey from CNA for her contributions to the discussion and for supporting the role of pharmacists as front-line health care providers.

### ***La ressource sur les pratiques exemplaires de l'APhC est maintenant disponible en français***

La ressource, [Équipement de protection individuelle \(ÉPI\): Pratiques exemplaires proposées aux pharmacies pour la durée de la pandémie de COVID-19](#), est maintenant disponible en français sur notre site Web. Grâce aux contributions des pharmaciens et d'autres professionnels de la santé, ces pratiques exemplaires sont fondées sur les données probantes disponibles et seront mises à jour au besoin.

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).

## **National**

### ***Choosing Wisely Canada releases COVID-19 list of recommendations***

Choosing Wisely Canada has released a COVID-19 [list of recommendations](#) for the public and for health care providers. The list was created in response to the unprecedented challenges COVID-19 has placed on the capacity of health care systems and providers around the world. Now more than ever, Choosing Wisely is calling for stewardship of limited resources.

### ***Federal government issues Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic***

Today, Public Safety Canada released [Guidance on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) to help provinces/territories, Indigenous communities and municipalities protect their communities while maintaining the reliable operation of critical infrastructure services and functions to ensure the health, safety and economic well-being of the population. Pharmacists and pharmacy employees are listed among the essential services and functions critical for the health care sector. This guidance is not intended to be a federal directive or standard.

### ***Lilly: No 2020 price increase for insulin***

Lilly has made the decision not to increase the prices of its insulins in 2020. The [news release](#) reads, in part: "We made our price

increase decisions in December 2019, and reported them to provincial drug plans in early 2020, in alignment with provincial requirements for price increases and their timing. We recognize that circumstances have changed. We are now working to communicate our changed decision, along with details of credits for anyone who paid the higher prices, with pharmacists, all provincial drug plans, wholesalers and distributors.”

### ***IMC donates N95 masks***

Members of [Innovative Medicines Canada](#) (IMC) have donated 100,000 N95 masks to front-line health care workers battling COVID-19. The donation was made in response to the federal government requesting additional PPE. The masks are being shipped directly to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) who will distribute them where they are needed most.

### ***CMA physician poll reveals lack of masks and supplies much starker than portrayed***

After conducting a [rapid poll of physicians](#), and collecting 5,000 responses in 48 hours, the Canadian Medical Association is calling for urgent action to address the lack of supply of PPE for health providers across the country, as physicians are reporting a much starker picture of the state of supply at the front lines than what some of our political leaders have been sharing.

### ***HealthCareCAN calls for emergency wage subsidy to include research community***

In an [open letter](#) to the Prime Minister written by Paul-Émile Cloutier, president and CEO, HealthCareCAN is worried that if Canada’s research community is not eligible for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, research hospitals will be forced to lay off researchers and highly qualified personnel. “This would in-turn jeopardize Canada’s capacity to contribute to the global research effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and impoverish Canada’s health research potential for years to come,” he writes. “I appeal to you to ensure that health researchers are extended eligibility for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy when the program’s criteria are unveiled later this week.”

## **International**

### ***Pharmacies ready to help protect Australians against the flu***

Community pharmacies stand ready to help all Australians follow the advice of the Minister for Health Greg Hunt to get their flu vaccinations this month. National president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, George Tambassis, says it is especially important for all Australians to be vaccinated against the flu this year – and to be vaccinated early. “The ongoing COVID-19 crisis highlights how critical it is to remain as healthy as possible to have a stronger resistance to catching it, or to recover quickly if you do catch it,” he said in a [news release](#). “Australia is in the unenviable situation of having to deal with the crisis at a time of the year when we usually face the onset of the flu season.”

### ***PGEU launches Information Hub***

The Pharmaceutical Group of European Union (PGEU) has launched an [Information Hub](#) that provides insights into the roles and commitments of community pharmacists in the fight against COVID-19. The site also gives an overview of useful international and national resources for community pharmacists.

## **Newsworthy**

### ***5 myths about preventing, detecting COVID-19***

No, drinking hot lemon water, breathing in steam and gargling with salt water will not protect you from getting COVID-19. These are just some of the many misleading and false claims about remedies or ways to prevent infection that have been shared to millions of people since the coronavirus outbreak began. Read about some of the [common myths here](#).

## **Worth Repeating**

“We are front-line people and we should be always providing the service to the community; this is our passion and this is our commitment.” – Toronto pharmacist Sami Mikhaeil on [what keeps him going](#) throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

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.