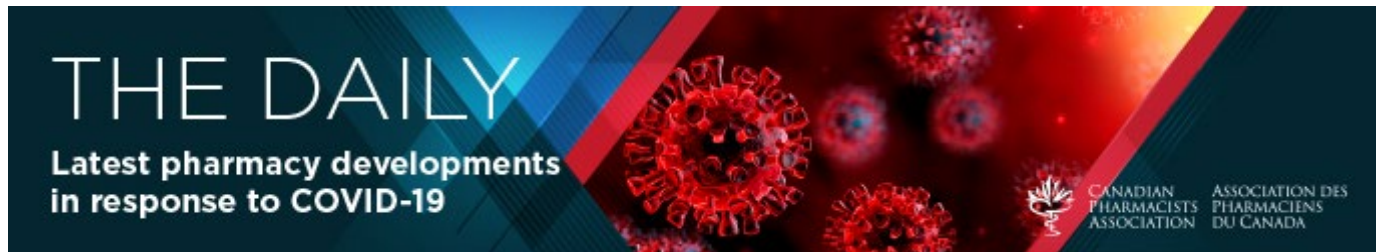


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: April 21, 2020 5:16 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 21



April 21, 2020

CPhA

Maintenant disponible en français : Contenu en libre accès

Le plus récent chapitre de l'APhC, intitulé [COVID-19](#), fournit des renseignements à l'intention des praticiens de soins primaires sur la prise en charge des symptômes courants, notamment la fièvre, la toux et les céphalées, de même qu'un survol des traitements expérimentaux qui sont employés dans les centres de soins aigus. Ce contenu sera mis à jour régulièrement à mesure que de nouvelles données probantes seront disponibles.

LAST CHANCE! National survey of community pharmacists and practice challenges during COVID-19 closes tonight at 11:59pm ET

CPhA has launched a survey of Canadian community pharmacists on pharmacy practice challenges during COVID-19. The brief survey asks about key issues and experiences on the front lines of the pandemic with the aim of better understanding the challenges they face as they care for patients and informing our efforts to provide tools and resources and advocate for government protections and supports. The survey will be open until 11:59pm ET on Tuesday, April 21 and is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

The COVID Conversations: Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness webinar on Wednesday, April 22

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 EDT 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 (Clinical, Health & Rehabilitation Psychologist), Heather Scarlett-Ferguson (Alberta Pharmacists' Association) and Karen Wong (Hospital for Sick Children). [Registration is now open.](#)

CPhA's COVID-19 web pages are being updated regularly at www.pharmacists.ca/covid19 and www.pharmacists.ca/covid19fr.

National

Upcoming webinar: Financial relief for pharmacists during COVID-19 Part 2

Whole Health Pharmacy Partners is hosting a free webinar outlining updates to the federal government's financial relief programs. [Register](#) for Part 2 of "Financial Relief for Pharmacists During COVID-19" taking place this Sunday, April 26 at 11am ET.

OCS information on temporary exceptional measures for post-consumer returns containing controlled substances

In response to the evolving health risk posed by COVID-19, the Office of Controlled Substances (OCS) is taking [temporary](#)

[measures \(en français\)](#) to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19 between consumers and pharmacists when returning products that may contain controlled substances to a pharmacy. In instances where pharmacists choose not to accept returns during this time, they should advise consumers on the proper storage of these products in their homes until they can be safely returned to the pharmacy. Ideally, products that contain controlled substances should be locked and kept out of reach of children. Should pharmacists choose to continue accepting post-consumer returns during this time, the OCS has recommendations to allow for reduced contact between consumers and pharmacists when returning products that may contain controlled substances to a pharmacy. Pharmacists are still required to do their best to ensure post-consumer returns containing controlled substances remain secure.

AstraZeneca Canada donating face masks to support Canadian health care workers

AstraZeneca Canada is [donating 200,000 surgical face masks](#) to support Canadian health care workers on the front line as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Donated in response to the federal government's request for additional personal protective equipment (PPE), the masks have been shipped to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to be distributed to areas with the greatest need. "Access to personal protective equipment is one of the most pressing needs facing Canadian healthcare workers who are on the front lines caring for patients and battling this pandemic," says Jane Chung, president of AstraZeneca Canada. "Our donation of 200,000 face masks to the Public Health Agency of Canada will help keep health care professionals safe while they tirelessly and courageously continue to deliver exceptional care to Canadians."

International

FDA allows small compound pharmacies to supply medications to hospitals

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken yet another step in a bid to reduce a shortage of medicines needed for COVID-19 patients on ventilators, this time by allowing small compound pharmacies to temporarily fill the void, [STAT reports](#). The agency will permit these compounders, which fill individual prescriptions, to supply hospitals unable to purchase medicines from the usual manufacturers or larger compound pharmacies. Also known as outsourcing facilities, the bigger compounders make and sell large quantities of medicines without requiring patient prescriptions. Last week, the FDA also [began allowing](#) outsourcing facilities to sell to hospitals. The decision comes as hospitals are having difficulty receiving orders for more than a dozen sedatives, anesthetics, painkillers and muscle relaxants. The drugs are used to help manage pain and comfort levels while a patient is on mechanical ventilation. Orders are being filled and shipped to hospitals only 53% of the time, down from 72% last month.

RPS welcomes COVID-19 testing for pharmacists

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) [welcomed news](#) that COVID-19 testing will be made available to community pharmacy teams in England. The National Health Service (NHS) [has previously written](#) that NHS staff and their families in England can access testing. RPS president Sandra Gidley says: "After raising this issue with the Government, it's welcome news that community pharmacy teams in England will be able to access testing for COVID-19. It will be vital to roll out testing for frontline pharmacists and their teams across GB to support retention and help keep them looking after patients."

US community pharmacies need COVID-19 small business federal aid: NCPA

Nearly 90% of community pharmacies will apply for small business federal aid under the CARES Act to help them get through the coronavirus storm, according to a [new survey](#) released by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA). "Pharmacies are 'essential businesses' staying open during the COVID-19 pandemic to keep serving their communities, but many are on the brink at the very time they are needed most," says NCPA CEO Douglas Hoey. "In the 18 months before this crisis, the number of pharmacies had shrunk by over 2,000, mostly due to low reimbursement from pharmacy benefit managers. Ten million patients lost the pharmacy of their choice in just over a year – a staggering number that will only grow during the pandemic recovery if pharmacies don't have relief from below-cost PBM reimbursements so they can be there into the future."

Newsworthy

Manitoba pharmacy using masks to benefit food bank

More people are using protective masks while they go out in public and Pharmasave in Souris, MB, decided to use the masks as a [fundraising tool for a local charity](#). The pharmacy approached a local group about making masks that are available to anyone looking for a mask and in return they are asked to make a cash donation. Cindy Russell is a pharmacy assistant at Pharmasave and she says response has been tremendous. “We approached an organization who actually wished to remain anonymous and through them they decided they would donate these hand made masks to Pharmasave and then we donate them to the community and we are asking for a simple donation that goes towards the food bank that right now can’t take anything but monetary donations because of the COVID-19.” The pharmacy has handed out more than 500 masks and donations have surpassed \$1600.

Worth Repeating

“There were already periodic shortages of some medications before the pandemic hit and lots of evidence of people trying to fill six months’ worth when the pandemic did hit. To limit people to a one-month supply at this time is prudent and logical.” — Winnipeg’s Rob McConnell, in a Letter to the Editor of the *Winnipeg Free Press*, disputing claims there are no drug shortages amid 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.