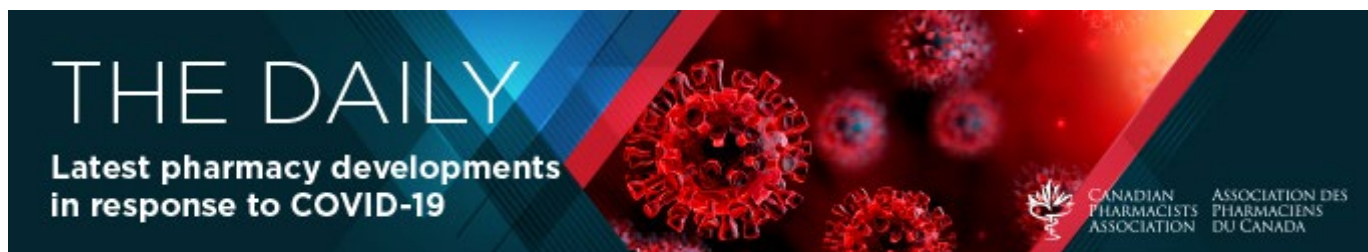


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** April 29, 2020 4:12 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for April 29



**April 29, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***Therapeutic alternatives to amoxicillin for common pediatric conditions***

CPhA and medSask developed [this document](#) to assist health care providers in managing patient care in the event of a shortage of amoxicillin suspension. A French version will be available soon.

### ***Maintenant disponible en français***

Deux nouvelles ressources sont maintenant disponibles en français: [COVID-19 chez les patients traités par un médicament modificateur de l'évolution de la sclérose en plaques](#) et [Pénurie de salbutamol pour inhalation](#).

### ***A day in your pharmacy life: #PharmacyLifeCA***

Canadian pharmacy teams are really stepping up and we want to see what life is like for you right now! On **Thursday, April 30**, tweet or post on Facebook 1 photo that describes a day in your life during COVID-19. Use the hashtag #PharmacyLifeCA and tag @CPhAAPHc to [join the conversation](#). 1 day. 1 photo. Show the world what you're doing in your #PharmacyLifeCA.

### ***Une journée dans la vie de votre pharmacie : PharmacieVieCA***

Les équipes des pharmacies canadiennes redoublent vraiment d'efforts et nous voulons voir à quoi ressemble votre vie en ce moment! Le **jeudi 30 avril**, affichez sur Twitter ou Facebook une photo qui décrit une journée de votre vie pendant la COVID-19. Utilisez le mot-clic #PharmacieVieCA et identifiez @CPhAAPHc pour [participer à la conversation](#). 1 jour. 1 photo. Montrez au monde ce que vous faites dans votre #PharmacieVieCA.

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**

### ***BC: Drug supply slowly recovering***

While many pharmacies in BC have not yet seen a total easing of the distribution supply problems that happened in early to mid-March, members say that the [situation is balancing](#) and that more "normal" orders are being received. Where possible, pharmacists who now have adequate supplies are dispensing the full 90-day supply of medications patients would traditionally receive. BCPHA is asking its members to continue to be consistent with government policy by providing their patients with the maximum 90 days' supply where they can, but to continue dispensing 30 days' worth where supply is an issue for the pharmacy.

## **National**

### ***Regulators explore exam options during pandemic***

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced pharmacy regulatory authorities to make changes and explore alternatives to their exam

schedules and delivery methods, [Canadian Healthcare Network reports](#) (subscriber access required). Recently, the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC), the pharmacy profession's national certification body, announced single-day computer-based testing for the September 2020 Pharmacy Technician Qualifying Exam Part I (MCQ). PEBC says candidates will have the opportunity to schedule the time of day to take the exam online, choose the most convenient location among various secure sites across Canada, and use a keyboard and mouse, rather than a pencil and paper. Most provincial regulatory authorities have postponed scheduled jurisprudence exams. The Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP), for example, has postponed its May sitting and is assessing the status of its August exam.

### ***Half of Canadians report worsening mental health: poll***

As many people enter a 7<sup>th</sup> week of self-isolation, a new poll confirms that the COVID-19 pandemic is unifying Canadians in their anxiety. Half of respondents in the new [Angus Reid Institute poll](#) say their mental health has worsened, including 10% who say it has worsened "a lot." Among the more than 1900 respondents, people reported being "bored" and "depressed" almost as much as they said they were "grateful" and "optimistic."

### ***Health Canada announces interim policy to expedite access to cleaning products***

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada has implemented an [interim policy](#) to facilitate access to cleaning products used, handled or stored in workplaces coming from the US into Canada that are not fully compliant with existing regulatory requirements (e.g., unilingual labelling, information or pictograms not exactly as outlined in the regulations). However, the interim policy does not change the enforcement priority for all other regulatory requirements under the [applicable regulations](#). The interim policy will apply only during the pandemic. After the pandemic, Health Canada will again enforce all hazard information and labelling requirements for these products.

## **International**

### ***Hospital demand for hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients is waning***

The ongoing uncertainty over whether hydroxychloroquine can successfully treat COVID-19 appears to have eroded demand considerably among hospitals, according to new data, [STAT reports](#). At the same time, anecdotal evidence suggests that patients with lupus, a condition for which the drug is approved to treat, are having an easier time filling prescriptions for the first time in weeks. From the week ending April 17 to the week ending April 24, demand plunged 62% among hospitals placing orders for the decades-old malaria drug. The number of tablets sought fell to 198,500 from 462,850 during that period, according to Vizient, a group purchasing organization that negotiates contracts for medicines on behalf of about 3000 hospitals and health care facilities in the US.

### ***Insights on pharmaceutical services in Wuhan***

Global health expert Andy Stergachis [offers his insights](#) on the COVID-19 pandemic and discusses an [upcoming article](#) scheduled to be published in the May/June 2020 issue of the *Journal of the American Pharmacists Association* (JAPhA) by Hua and colleagues on pharmaceutical services in an alternative care site in Wuhan, China. Stergachis outlines the lessons that can be taken from Hua and colleagues' experiences providing pharmaceutical care for 1848 patients with mild COVID-19, along with the article's limitations, which involve lack of information on personal protective equipment and staffing patterns.

### ***FIP special edition celebrates community pharmacists from around the world***

The Community Pharmacy section within the International Pharmaceutical Federation has published a [special COVID-19 edition of ZOOM](#), with stories from community pharmacists on the front line from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, India, Ireland, Nigeria, the Philippines, South Africa, Spain, Turkey and the UK.

## **Newsworthy**

### ***From 1600 to 16K: Virgil pharmacy helps agencies power up***

The timing couldn't have been better for St. George's Anglican Church in St. Catharines, ON. Volunteers with the church run a

daily breakfast program, serving about 50 people in need every morning, 7 days a week. The COVID-19 outbreak has seen that need increase and, at the same time, has affected their ability to provide breakfast. Their cereal supplier just told them they couldn't help for the time being. Enter Simpson's Pharmacy in nearby Virgil. A few weeks earlier, they were approached by the town about supporting long-term-care facilities by providing them with protein bars. Owner Sean Simpson made a few calls and before he knew it, he had access to thousands of power bars at a fraction of the regular cost.

### **Worth Repeating**

"Like so many other front-line workers, pharmacists are face-to-face with patients every day, exposing themselves, and their families, to risk of illness or infection with COVID-19. Yet, they do not always have the same access to personal protective equipment that other front-line workers do. Our industry is pleased to be able to assist in getting them the masks they need so they can continue helping to protect the health and well-being of Canadians at this difficult time." – Innovative Medicines Canada president Pamela Fralick on the financial contribution to CPhA to purchase 200,000 surgical masks for distribution to community pharmacies.

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.