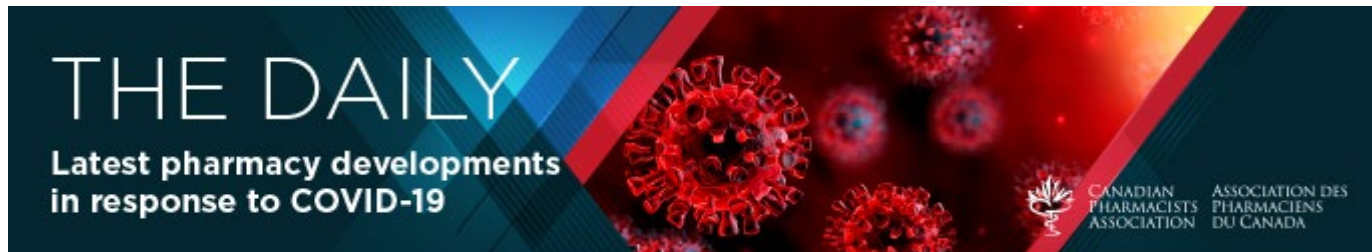


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: June 11, 2020 4:14 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for June 11



June 11, 2020

CPhA

COVID-19 and Controlled Drugs and Substances scan released

During COVID-19, temporary changes to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) have enabled pharmacists to better support patients who have been prescribed controlled drugs and substances. Our [latest scan](#) outlines these changes across the country, highlighting how the CDSA exemptions have been implemented in each province.

COVID-19 creates opportunities for continuity of care for Pharmacists' Opioid Stewardship Initiative

The Canadian Pharmacists' Harmonization Scope (CPHS) 2020, the CPhA initiative that aspires to define, describe and develop a national, forward-looking harmonized scope of practice for pharmacists, is focusing its efforts on a specific therapeutic area with the launch of the [Pharmacists' Opioid Stewardship Initiative](#) (POSI). "Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary exemptions have been made under the CDSA, creating an opportunity to provide continuity of care to some of the most vulnerable Canadians," says Shelita Dattani, CPhA's director of practice development and knowledge translation. The initiative will gather evidence to demonstrate the value of pharmacists' services and benefits to patients in opioid stewardship in 4 areas: prescribing, dispensing, health testing and administrative authority.

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

Provincial

AB eases 30-day prescription drug limits

As of June 15, pharmacists in Alberta can begin to dispense up to a 100-day supply of prescription medications, according to an Alberta government [news release](#). To handle the critical drug supply issues that have affected Alberta and the world due to COVID-19, the government had previously recommended pharmacists dispense a maximum 30-day supply of prescription drugs, when appropriate. "The temporary 30-day medication supply recommendation has certainly helped to stabilize the majority of the drug supply chain," Margaret Wing, CEO of the Alberta Pharmacists' Association, said in a statement yesterday. "While we understand that some medication shortages continue to exist for certain medications, we are confident that pharmacists will be able to transition patients back to receiving three-month supplies for the majority of their medications where appropriate."

National

Health Canada recalls more hand sanitizers containing industrial-grade ethanol

Health Canada is recalling 5 types of hand sanitizers sold in Canadian stores that are made with industrial-grade ethanol, in addition to 6 other products that were [recalled last week](#). The [recall](#), issued Saturday and updated yesterday, advises anyone with the products in their home to stop using them immediately and consult a health care professional if they have health concerns. Frequent use of these products may lead to dry skin, causing irritation or cracking.

GGconversations: The Race for a Vaccine

GGconversations are live, virtual conversations that are part of a series of dialogues between the Governor General and pre-eminent Canadians on diverse topics. On June 12 at 2pm EDT (1pm EDT for the [French conversation](#)) the Governor General will speak with [Dr. Gary Kobinger](#), microbiologist and director, Research Centre on Infectious Disease, Université Laval, about [The Race for a Vaccine](#).

Drug manufacturer seeks government aid to create made-in-Canada COVID-19 vaccine

A Canadian biotech company says it is ready to begin phase 1 testing of a promising vaccine against the virus causing COVID-19. But Providence Therapeutics CEO Brad Sorenson says that's as far as it will be able to go without government assistance, [reports CTV](#). The company designs cancer drugs using a technique called messenger RNA, or mRNA. That same technique is being used in Europe, China and the United States to create potential COVID-19 vaccines.

International

Pharmacy groups sign joint open letter to Australians urging them to catch up on missed health care

More than 20 national organizations have signed a joint open letter urging Australians not to neglect non-COVID health needs, the [Australian Journal of Pharmacy says](#). During the height of the pandemic, visits to general practice, allied health providers and emergency departments plummeted, with pathology testing levels dropping by around 40%. The list of 23 organizations who have published the letter includes the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia. The letter urges Australians to catch up on any appointments they have already missed.

Support for BAME pharmacists and team members

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) and UK Black Pharmacists Association have [written jointly](#) to ministers in England, Scotland and Wales calling for support for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) pharmacists and team members. The letter follows publication of the Public Health England report on 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19,' which recognizes that people from BAME backgrounds are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The letter calls on ministers to engage with the pharmacy profession to bring about real change to support and protect its workforce.

Florida fast-tracking pharmacy rules amid COVID-19 pandemic

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida governor Ron DeSantis' administration wants to fast-track rules that expand the health care services pharmacists are authorized to provide, allowing certain pharmacists to test patients for influenza and streptococcus and to treat patients with chronic illnesses, [says the American Pharmacists Association \(APhA\)](#). Ed Tellechea, general counsel of the Florida Board of Medicine, recently told members of a committee, "The governor's office would like them (the Board of Pharmacy) to get working on this right away because they want to have the pharmacists available to be able to assist in dealing with the current public-health crisis, and when it flares up again in the fall."

AstraZeneca wins US backing in race for COVID-19 treatment

AstraZeneca has secured support from the US government to advance the development of antibody-based COVID-19 treatments as the British drugmaker ramps up efforts beyond its potential vaccine to combat the global health crisis, [Reuters reports](#). The company said on Tuesday it has signed a second set of deals with authorities in the United States backing its development of a monoclonal antibody treatment against the coronavirus.

J&J moves up start of COVID-19 vaccine human trials to July

Johnson & Johnson has moved up the start of human clinical trials for its experimental vaccine against the COVID-19 virus by 2 months to the second half of July, [according to Reuters](#). The acceleration should allow J&J to take part in the massive clinical trials program planned by the US government, which aims to have an effective vaccine by year-end.

Widespread mask-wearing could prevent second waves of COVID-19, study says

Population-wide facemask use could push COVID-19 transmission down to controllable levels for national epidemics and could prevent further waves of the pandemic disease when combined with lockdowns, according to a UK study published yesterday and [reported by Reuters](#). The research, led by scientists at Britain's Cambridge and Greenwich Universities, suggests lockdowns alone will not stop the resurgence of COVID-19, but that even homemade masks can dramatically reduce transmission rates if enough people wear them in public.

Pharmacists – new spotlight on frontline health care workers

Dr. Catherine Duggan, CEO of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), shares her views with the Global Self-Care Federation on the vital role that pharmacists are playing to support individuals and communities to better self-care. In [the article](#) she says the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the essential role of pharmacies and pharmacists in their communities and their ability to innovate health care solutions. "We must ensure their role continues to be recognized beyond the pandemic," she says.

WHO backtracks on claim that asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is 'very rare'

A top official with the World Health Organization (WHO) has walked back statements that the spread of COVID-19 from people who do not show symptoms is "very rare," amid backlash from experts who have questioned the claim due to a lack of data, [says the CBC](#). Maria van Kerkhove, an infectious disease epidemiologist and the COVID-19 technical lead for the WHO, said Monday that the available data from published research and member countries had shown asymptomatic cases were not a significant driver for the spread of the virus. On Tuesday, van Kerkhove aimed to clear up "misunderstandings" about those statements in an updated briefing, stressing that she was referring to "very few studies" that tried to follow asymptomatic carriers of the virus over time to see how many additional people were infected.

Newsworthy

Sudbury pharmacist explains how COVID-19 has changed her profession

A [Sudbury pharmacist says](#) the COVID-19 pandemic is prompting her and her staff to change how care is delivered. Catherine Nolan owns 2 Shoppers Drug Marts in Sudbury, ON. She says they've been working to get people their medication in a timely manner and avoid them waiting in the store. Nolan says they've been providing free delivery service and asking those who are coming in to get their prescriptions to wait until they are filled. Nolan adds once people are in the store to get their medication, pharmacists are getting asked more questions about acute care. "We're helping people, directing them to resources where they can go if they're needing help to find care," she says.

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.

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