

From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
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CPhA

COVID-19 et les substances désignées : Tableau maintenant disponible en français

[Ce tableau](#) montre comment les pharmaciens sont plus en mesure d'aider les patients à qui l'on a prescrit des substances désignées pendant la pandémie de COVID-19.

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

National

Upward trend in purchasing medication and medical products on the internet: survey

A [new survey](#) from the Alliance for Safe Online Pharmacies Canada (ASOP Canada) revealed that since the COVID-19 pandemic began, half of Canadians have become more open to ordering medication, medical supplies or other health care products online. Throughout the pandemic, there has been a substantial spike in substandard personal protective equipment (PPE) and fake treatments for coronavirus for sale online through illegal sites.

Mandatory mask requirements spreading in Canada

Some communities across Canada have started making non-medical face masks mandatory on public transit — or even in businesses or indoor spaces — to curb the spread of COVID-19, [according to CBC](#). Some doctors and epidemiologists are calling for such laws to be more widespread, but others warn about the potential negative impacts and say the scientific evidence isn't strong enough to warrant such heavy-handed measures.

Canada buying 140,000 blood tests to begin immunity testing of COVID-19

Blood samples collected from tens of thousands of Canadians will soon be tested for signs of COVID-19 antibodies as the federal government seeks to learn how many people have already contracted the novel coronavirus, [CTV reports](#). Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, says she is excited about the partnership between the national immunity task force and Canada's blood agencies, Canadian Blood Services and Héma-Québec. The 2 organizations have already collected “tens of thousands” of blood samples from Canadians that will be used for the initial immunity testing across the country. All they are waiting for is the arrival of the testing kits, which are now on their way.

CAMH survey shows pandemic affecting mental health, but anxiety levels may be easing

Findings from a new survey by the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) indicate that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the mental health of Canadians, [CBC reports](#). The survey of more than 2000 Canadians found that 20% of respondents have been experiencing loneliness during the pandemic and that 1 in 5 reported feeling moderate to severe levels of anxiety, due to factors such as job loss and fear of contracting the virus.

CADTH webinar: Surviving the COVID-19 Infodemic

Are you surviving the infodemic—that overwhelming flood of information, misinformation, rumours and outright scams that make it hard to know what to trust? Misinformation, such as false preventive measures, hurts public health efforts to control the illness and puts patients' lives in danger. Check out CADTH's free webinar, [Surviving The COVID-19 Infodemic – Can You Trust Dr. Google?](#), on Tuesday, June 23 at 12pm EDT.

Updated data of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported available

A [revised set of preliminary data](#) on the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported by the provincial and territorial health authorities to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is now available. The set covers the period from January 15 to June 7, 2020.

International

Ohio's community pharmacies can now offer COVID-19 tests

COVID-19 testing should become more widely accessible to Ohioans, after the state Department of Medicaid [announced Monday](#) that it will begin paying all pharmacies for administering the test. The roughly 2000 community pharmacies across the state have been shut out, unable to provide the service because the state had not set up a system to reimburse them for the cost, which can run as much as \$100 each.

WHO drops hydroxychloroquine from COVID-19 clinical trial

The World Health Organization (WHO) says it is dropping the malaria medicine hydroxychloroquine from its massive study investigating treatments for the coronavirus after available data indicated the drug is not effective for COVID-19, [STAT reports](#). The announcement from the agency is the latest blow to the hopes that hydroxychloroquine, as well as the related drug chloroquine, could provide patients an option at a time when there are too few treatments available for the virus.

WHO welcomes preliminary results about dexamethasone use in treating critically ill COVID-19 patients

The WHO [welcomes the initial clinical trial results](#) from the United Kingdom that show dexamethasone, a corticosteroid, can be lifesaving for patients who are critically ill with COVID-19. For patients on ventilators, the treatment was shown to reduce mortality by about a third, and for patients requiring only oxygen, mortality was cut by about a fifth, according to preliminary findings shared with WHO. The benefit was seen only in patients seriously ill with COVID-19, and was not observed in patients with milder disease.

EU calls for global alliance to buy COVID-19 vaccines up front

The European Commission is calling for global leaders to cooperate to buy bulk quantities of potential COVID-19 vaccines to avoid "harmful competition" and ensure any future vaccine is available to poor countries, [Reuters reports](#). With a dozen potential vaccines now in human trials, rich countries are rushing to buy doses in advance from drug makers to ensure supplies should any prove successful. The European Commission is worried this could raise prices for everyone and also leave many countries, mostly poor ones, struggling to obtain a supply.

Vaccine makers hunting for vital equipment: glass vials

Frantic efforts to bring coronavirus vaccines to the world are facing a maddening bottleneck: the small glass vials that hold the shots, [The Wall Street Journal says](#). Drug makers in the US, Europe, China and elsewhere are pushing to test and manufacture vaccines against COVID-19, hoping to distribute billions of shots once they have proven to work safely. Yet, a months-long shortage of vials and the special glass they are made from is hampering the ramp-up.

Newsworthy

Fighting the infodemic

While the [infodemic](#)—the large-scale spread of misinformation—has been gathering speed for some time now, the COVID-19

pandemic has fuelled an [explosion in pseudoscience messaging](#), particularly on social media. The power and popularity of health misinformation in the age of COVID-19 has prompted people to drink bleach, set 5G towers on fire and hoard hydroxychloroquine, all in the mistaken belief that these actions will save lives. In this [article from *The Medical Post*](#), Dr. Michelle Cohen offers tips for medical professionals addressing misinformation online.

Worth Repeating

"It's been a lot of long days and a lot of long nights and we even did have to add on additional staff." — London, ON, pharmacist Nick Vander Gulik says it's been a busy several months in [this report](#) on how COVID-19 has impacted pharmacy.

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.