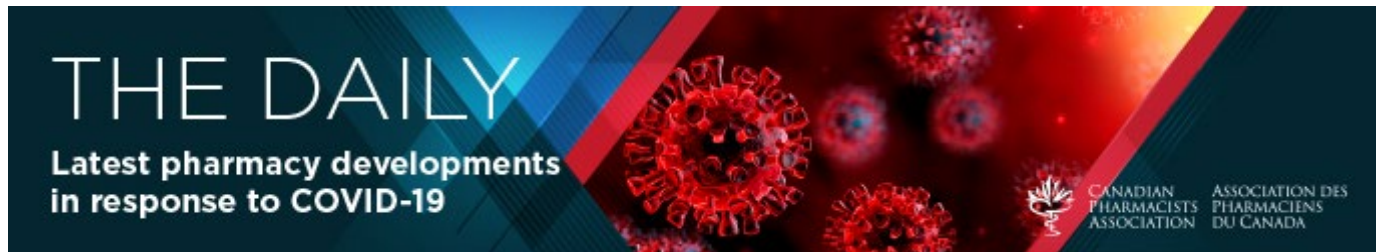


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: June 23, 2020 4:26 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for June 23



June 23, 2020

CPhA

Mise à jour : Équipement de protection individuelle (EPI) : Pratiques exemplaires proposées aux pharmacies pour la durée de la pandémie de COVID-19

L'APhC a mis à jour ses [pratiques exemplaires proposées concernant l'utilisation de l'EPI par le personnel de pharmacie](#). Les changements comprennent des considérations concernant l'utilisation du masque non médical/masque en tissu/couvre-visage en tissu comme mesure de « contrôle à la source », des éclaircissements concernant l'application de l'évaluation des risques au point de service pour déterminer quel EPI est requis et quand, ainsi que des renseignements sur l'application des pratiques exemplaires en matière d'EPI lors de l'administration de vaccins.

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

National

Free webinar: Technologies for pharmacies to navigate COVID-19 and beyond

Feeling left behind in a high-tech era? WholeHealth Pharmacy Partners is hosting a free webinar to bring clarity to the evolving technology ecosystem available for pharmacies to modernize. Join the webinar on Wednesday, June 24 at 7 pm EDT on [Zoom](#) or Facebook live [@WholeHealthPP](#).

Health Canada adds more hand sanitizer products to recall list

Health Canada has added more hand sanitizer products to their growing recall list. The agency first [announced recalls](#) of some hand sanitizer products on June 6 due to the presence of industrial-grade ethanol and has [continued to update the list](#) throughout the month. The following hand sanitizers were [added to the recall list](#) on Monday: Gel Antiseptique Pour Les Mains made by Megalab Inc; Germzero made by Flash Beaute Inc; and Tekare Instant Hand Cleanser Gel made by TEKPolymer Inc. The contaminant listed for these products is ethyl acetate.

CADTH review: Convalescent plasma therapy for the treatment of COVID-19

Convalescent plasma (CP) therapy is an intervention where plasma is collected from recovered COVID-19 patients in the hope that the disease-specific antibodies could help the recipient recover from COVID-19. Evidence on the effectiveness of CP therapy for the treatment of COVID-19 is still in the early stages. This [CADTH report](#) summarizes the current evidence and was updated on June 19 as a living review.

Survey: 43% of Chinese-Canadians have faced threats over COVID-19

A new survey of Chinese-Canadians says 43% of respondents reported being threatened or intimidated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, [reports The Canadian Press](#). The online survey, carried out by the Angus Reid Institute in partnership with the

University of Alberta, also found that 50% reported being called names or insulted due to the health crisis. Close to a third, 30%, said they have been frequently exposed to racist graffiti or social media messages since the pandemic began.

International

England: Pharmacist check-ups top 300,000

A [National Health Service \(NHS\) scheme](#) that has seen tens of thousands of people get a fast, safe, face-to-face appointment with a local pharmacist is accelerating as people start to return to normal life after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost a third of a million health checks have now taken place under the new scheme, the majority of which – more than 180,000 – have taken place since the NHS stepped up its response to the emerging threat of COVID-19 at the end of January. Available through the fast and free NHS 111 phone or online service, those who would benefit are booked in for a face-to-face consultation with a pharmacist for a range of minor illnesses or to get an urgent supply of a previously prescribed medicine.

FIP expert advisory group focusing on testing

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) COVID Expert Advisory Group is currently working to develop a set of criteria for diagnostic tools and tests for COVID-19, by which it can judge the efficacy, reliability and efficiency of tests on the market. Using the expertise from the advisory group on clinical trials and evaluations together with existing evidence, it will then assess available diagnostic tests against these criteria and make recommendations on advice that the pharmacy profession can use in its practice.

New York law empowers pharmacists to vaccinate against COVID-19

New York's pharmacies [will be a resource](#) for the state once a vaccine for COVID-19 is developed and available. New York governor Andrew Cuomo has signed a law that adds COVID-19 to the list of illnesses for which pharmacists can vaccinate. Mike Duteau, president of the Community Pharmacy Association of New York State and Noble Health Services, and Steve Anderson, president and CEO of the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, issued a joint statement thanking the state for its leadership, adding that, "It is essential that all states continue to remove barriers for pharmacies to help meet the needs of patients during this phase of the pandemic." The associations also urge New York State to maintain the operational flexibilities provided to pharmacies during the pandemic to help ensure pharmacies are well-prepared to meet patients' demands during what is expected to be an early and compressed flu vaccination season.

FDA issues warning letters to companies inappropriately marketing antibody tests

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has [issued warning letters](#) to 3 companies for marketing adulterated and misbranded COVID-19 antibody tests. Antibody tests, also called serological tests, detect antibodies to COVID-19, which can help identify individuals who have developed an adaptive immune response to the virus as part of either an active or prior infection. These tests may be important in the fight against this pandemic as they may provide information on disease prevalence and the frequency of asymptomatic infection. The warning letters are the first set of letters the agency has issued for marketing adulterated or misbranded COVID-19 test kits.

Novartis halts trial of hydroxychloroquine for use in treating COVID-19

Novartis is halting its trial of hydroxychloroquine for use in treating COVID-19 after struggling to find participants and noting that data from other studies raised doubts about its effectiveness, [Reuters notes](#). The move follows a decision by the FDA to revoke emergency use authorization for the decades-old malaria drug on grounds that it is unlikely to help patients. The trial began in April and sought to test the drug in 440 hospitalized patients, but the project managed to recruit only a handful.

US hospitals in hard-hit regions step up use of dexamethasone on sickest COVID-19 patients

[Reuters reports](#) that several US hospitals in states with fresh surges of COVID-19 cases have started treating their sickest patients with dexamethasone rather than await confirmation of preliminary results of a study by British researchers who say the inexpensive steroid saves lives. The move illustrates how the pandemic is changing the way hospitals work, at least regarding COVID-19 patients.

WHO publishes updated guidance on use of masks

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published [updated guidance](#) on the use of masks, based on evolving evidence. It explains who should wear masks, when they should be worn and what they should be made of. The updated guidance also includes information on transmission from symptomatic, pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic infected people; recommendations for the targeted continuous use of medical masks by health care workers working in clinical areas; and advice for decision-makers on the use of medical and non-medical masks by the general public using a risk-based approach.

Newsworthy

Account for gender/sex to make personal protective equipment safer for women

COVID-19 is not a gender- or sex-neutral killer. Men are more likely than women to need intensive care for the disease or [die from it](#). Among health care workers, however, the tables are turned: [women accounted for 73%](#) of the more than 9000 US health care workers who had been infected with the novel coronavirus by early April. This gender/sex difference has been [seen in other countries](#), and it isn't because more women than men are on the frontlines of COVID-19 care. The design of personal protective equipment might be to blame, says an [article in STAT](#).

Worth Repeating

“COVID-19 has shown us that we can do virtual consultations... we've learned to change and adapt quickly. All of a sudden, we had to come up with innovative and preventative measures quickly. Curbside or drive-thru service, social distancing procedures —we've learned how to do that better.” – Lethbridge, AB, pharmacist Ron Hendry, owner of Thriftway Pharmacy, [sharing details of his pharmacy's experience](#) during COVID-19.

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.