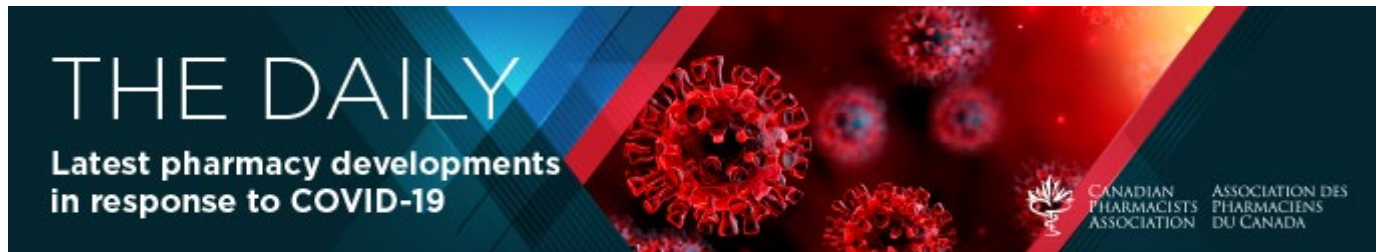


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: June 30, 2020 2:43 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for June 30



Note: The Daily will not be published on Thursday, July 2. See you next week. Happy Canada Day!

June 30, 2020

CPhA

Resource Spotlight: The Role of Pharmacy in Public and Population Health

CPhA's COVID Conversations open access webinar series is designed to support pharmacists during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since early March we've hosted 8 panel discussions on important issues, including a webinar on the role of pharmacy in public and population health. The webinar features a timely discussion of some of the pros and cons of pharmacists providing public health services such as immunizations and point-of-care testing, with a particular emphasis on the debate surrounding the role of pharmacy in testing for COVID-19. Visit our [COVID Conversations webpage](#) to view the full recording or bite-size clips on specific topics discussed.

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

Provincial

AB offers symptomatic COVID-19 testing at community pharmacies

Over the next few days, a group of 20 community pharmacies located primarily in Edmonton and Calgary [will begin to offer asymptomatic COVID-19 testing](#). The pharmacy test is a throat swab, which is sent to a lab for analysis. The number of pharmacies initially conducting COVID-19 testing is being limited to ensure the process and flow of test materials and data is working well before expanding further. Additional pharmacies are planning to offer testing in the coming weeks. "Pharmacist practitioners prescribe, vaccinate, and will now be able to administer COVID-19 tests for asymptomatic individuals. Pharmacists volunteering to offer COVID-19 testing further acknowledges the vital role they continue to play in the delivery of public health care, helping to keep our communities safe and enhancing the fight against COVID-19," says Margaret Wing, CEO, of the Alberta Pharmacists' Association.

National

Canadian-made COVID-19 vaccine ready to start human trials soon

A potential COVID-19 vaccine developed in Quebec will become the first Canadian-made vaccine candidate to enter human trials. Nathalie Landry with Medicago, the biopharmaceutical company behind the vaccine, told [CTV News](#) that they "have completed preclinical development for this vaccine," and are only "a few weeks away [from] initiating [their] first clinical trials in humans." Research teams with Laval University worked with the company to develop the vaccine candidate. Both the federal government and the Quebec government have contributed funds toward the vaccine's development.

Survey: Impact of COVID-19 on Canadian Pharmacy Practice

How has COVID-19 impacted you and your pharmacy practice? A pharmacy research team at the University of Alberta is studying the impact of COVID-19 on Canadian pharmacy practice and they would like input from pharmacists across Canada for their [national survey](#). The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and will help better understand the impact of COVID-19 on pharmacy services, the support pharmacists have received and roles undertaken during the pandemic. Deadline for completion is mid-July.

International

Pharmacy groups ask for official guidance authorizing pharmacists to provide COVID-19 vaccines

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) [joined 13 national pharmacy organizations](#) requesting The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issue federal guidance authorizing pharmacists under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP) to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their patients when available. HHS helped expand the availability of COVID-19 tests in April when it issued official guidance declaring that licensed pharmacists are authorized under the PREP Act to order and administer FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests. To further help America rapidly recover from the pandemic, the groups are asking HHS to issue a similar PREP Act declaration authorizing pharmacists to provide COVID-19 vaccines to their patients.

New head of European Medicines Agency announced

The first woman to head up the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in its 25-year history takes the reins as the EU reckons with the possibility of increased health powers in a post-pandemic world, [Politico reports](#). Emer Cooke, director of the World Health Organization's (WHO) regulation and prequalification department, was selected by the EMA's management board to take over from Executive Director Guido Rasi, whose term ends on November 15. Prior to working at the WHO, Cooke spent 14 years at the EMA as head of its inspections sector, as well as international liaison and, most recently, as head of international affairs. A pharmacist by training, Cooke began her career in the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland and then moved to the Irish regulatory agency. She has also worked at the European pharmaceutical lobby, EFPIA.

FIP digital event: Influenza vaccination in times of COVID-19 – best practices from the southern hemisphere

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) has launched a new series of 10 digital events called *Increasing vaccination coverage through pharmacists*, which will run from July to January 2021. The first episode, on July 2 (13.00-14.30 CEST), establishes a bridge between this series and its COVID-19 online program, with a panel addressing the topic: *Winter is coming: Influenza vaccination in times of COVID-19 — best practices from the southern hemisphere*. Details and registration [here](#).

Number of people buying prescription medications outside US could rise with COVID-19 related unemployment, uninsured rates

Buying prescription drugs from outside the United States could become more common, with millions of Americans unemployed and uninsured because of the coronavirus pandemic, [reports the Philadelphia Inquirer](#). About [2 million Americans](#) — 1.5% of adults — purchase medications outside the country to save money, according to a study by researchers at the University of Florida published online in JAMA. Researchers found that older adults, immigrants and people with inadequate health insurance are most likely to turn to [online pharmacies or drug stores outside American borders](#), where medications often cost a fraction of the domestic price. They say the pandemic, which has hit seniors and immigrants hard and has financially strained thousands of families, could lead to more people turning to international pharmacies.

US 'likely' to see shortage of generic drugs if COVID-19 outbreak continues

With COVID-19 outbreaks continuing to spread across the world, the US is "likely" to see a shortage of generic drugs, according to a new federal intelligence report obtained by [ABC News](#). The report, prepared by the Department of Homeland Security and distributed to law enforcement and government agencies around the country, warned that the US is already seeing shortages of more than 200 drugs and medical supplies due to strains on the supply chain caused by international shutdowns early on in the pandemic.

WHO, partners unveil ambitious plan to deliver 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine to high-risk populations

The WHO and key partners unveiled a plan to purchase 2 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines for the highest-risk populations of the world, [STAT reports](#). The plan anticipates that by the end of 2021, the doses could be delivered to countries to vaccinate high-risk individuals, likely including health care workers, people over the age of 65, and other adults who suffer from conditions like diabetes.

From 9 to 12: CDC releases 3 new COVID-19 symptoms

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has updated its website and classified 3 “new” COVID-19 symptoms. These symptoms join the federal agency’s 9 other symptoms, including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, and sore throat. These new symptoms can range from mild to severe, with most patients experiencing it for one to 14 days after contracting the virus. Its website has been updated to include the symptoms congestion or runny nose, nausea, and diarrhea, [Forbes reports](#). Although these new symptoms do not seem to be new at all since many cases have already reported experiencing these, this list shows how difficult it can be to identify a person without doing proper testing.

AstraZeneca, Moderna most advanced in COVID-19 vaccine race - WHO

The WHO says a forthcoming AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is probably the leading candidate and most advanced in terms of development, [Reuters writes](#). WHO chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan says that a Moderna COVID-19 vaccine candidate was also “not far behind” among more than 200 candidates, 15 of which have entered clinical trials. Meanwhile, the WHO is in talks with multiple Chinese manufacturers, including Sinovac, on potential vaccines.

Gilead announces price for remdesivir treatment

The maker of a drug shown to shorten recovery time for severely ill COVID-19 patients says it will charge US\$2,340 for a typical treatment course for people covered by government health programs in the US and other developed countries. [Gilead Sciences announced the price](#) yesterday for remdesivir, and said the price would be US\$3,120 for patients with private insurance. The amount that patients pay out of pocket depends on insurance, income and other factors. “We’re in uncharted territory with pricing a new medicine, a novel medicine, in a pandemic,” Gilead's chief executive, Dan O'Day, told [the Associated Press](#).

Newsworthy

It's not just the lungs: COVID-19 attacks like no other 'respiratory' infection

The reports seemed to take doctors by surprise: The “respiratory” virus that causes Covid-19 made some patients nauseous. It left others unable to smell. In some, it caused acute kidney injury. As the pandemic grew from an outbreak affecting thousands in Wuhan, China, to some 10 million cases and 500,000 deaths globally as of late June, the list of symptoms has also exploded, [STAT reports](#). “For many diseases, it can take years before we fully characterize the different ways that it affects people,” said nephrologist Dan Negoianu of Penn Medicine. “Even now, we are still very early in the process of understanding this disease.”

Worth Repeating

“We’re still getting just as many phone calls. The foot traffic has increased though, so I think we’re getting a lot of new patients.” - With COVID-19 restrictions loosening in NS, [things are now getting busier](#) for Dartmouth pharmacist Diane Harpell and the team of 4 pharmacists she works with.

This 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.

