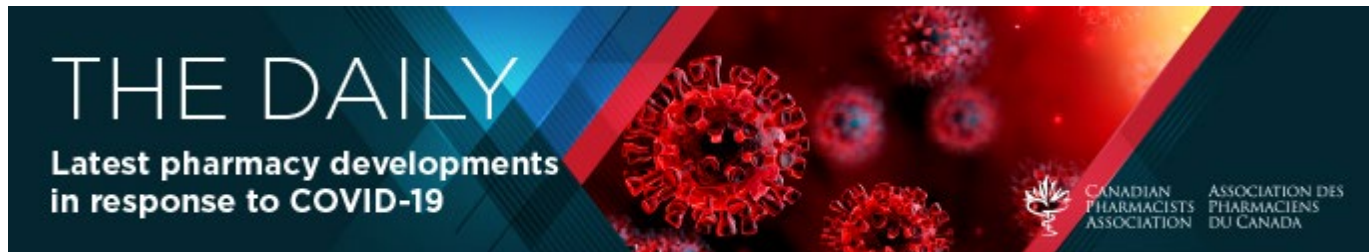


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** March 24, 2020 5:16 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 24



**March 24, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***Webinar recording now available: Managing COVID-19 Day-to Day: More Answers to Pharmacists' FAQs***

CPhA hosted a second FAQs webinar to answer pharmacists' day-to-day questions about COVID-19. More than 2000 people registered for the webinar, which was moderated by CPhA's Shelita Dattani and featured panelists Smita Patel (McKesson), Kelly Grindrod (University of Waterloo), Annette Robinson (Pharmasave) and Allan Malek (OPA). The recording is available on our [website](#).

### ***CPhA releases statements on use of DMARDs and antiretrovirals in patients with COVID-19***

CPhA is continuously reviewing evidence and clinical guidelines for the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Based on best available evidence, we have released two new statements: [COVID-19 in patients taking DMARDs or other anti-rheumatic medications \(en français\)](#) and [Treatment of COVID-19 with antiretroviral combinations \(en français\)](#). Information on these and use of other medications in patients with COVID-19 will continue to be monitored and all CPhA statements will be updated and shared on our website as new data and evidence become available.

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).

## **National**

### ***Innovative Medicines Canada welcomes federal rapid mobilization of research projects***

Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) welcomed the announcement by the federal government yesterday (March 23) of measures to aid in the rapid mobilization of large-scale efforts by Canadian researchers and life sciences companies working to combat COVID-19, including through the development of solutions to diagnose, treat and prevent the virus. In a [statement](#), the association said the announcement "Will help advance projects that are already underway through collaborations with provincial governments and public and private entities and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines and treatments at such a critical time. The funding will allow IMC members, such as Quebec-based Medicago, to rapidly move forward on clinical trials and further accelerate the development of vaccines."

## **Provincial**

### ***How patients can help pharmacists maintain essential community health care***

The Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) issued a [release](#) with tips on what the public can do to stay safe and protect pharmacists on the front line from getting ill with COVID-19. "Saskatchewan residents may notice some modifications in hours and the layout of community pharmacies. However, pharmacies are maintaining access to the medications and pharmacy services you need, subject to public health recommendations in force," the release said.

### **Quebec hits 'pause' button; AQPP issues safety reminder to patients**

In the wake of the Quebec government's decision to close all non-essential businesses, the Association québécoise des pharmaciens propriétaires (AQPP) issued a [release](#) reminding patients that certain measures must be put in place to ensure the safety of pharmacists and their staff. It strongly suggested that patients call to have their medication prepared or to use the online renewal service and noted that patients can either collect their prescriptions at the time agreed with their pharmacist or have them delivered to their home. The latter option is preferable, however, since trips to the pharmacy should be made only for essential needs.

### **Joint statement on the use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for COVID-19**

The Ontario Pharmacists Association, the Ontario Medical Association and the Registered Nurses' of Ontario issued a joint [statement](#) on the use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for COVID-19. "At this time, there is a serious lack of evidence that categorically supports the widespread use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin. Equally important are the significant potential contraindications, adverse effects and drug interactions with the use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin individually or concurrently, particularly the cardiovascular effects that include cardiac arrhythmias and QTc prolongation." The statement also notes that "With our collective memberships of more than 110,000 strong, Ontario's doctors, nurses and nurse practitioners and pharmacists, we have an obligation and duty to educate our patients that any treatment – particularly for COVID-19 – needs to be evidence-based."

## **International**

### **Coronavirus: Inside a community pharmacy under pressure**

Pharmacists are asking people not to stockpile medicine, as many report a threefold increase in foot traffic. There are 14,000 pharmacies in the UK and some are restricting the number of patients inside, creating social distancing markers and limiting purchases. National health plans to temporarily register retired pharmacists and allowing pharmacy students to help are also being discussed. Watch a [BBC report](#) in which community pharmacist Marc Borson shows what it's like being on the front line of fighting COVID-19.

## **Newsworthy**

### **Man dies after ingesting chloroquine phosphate**

An Arizona man has died after ingesting chloroquine phosphate — believing it would protect him from becoming infected with the coronavirus. The man's wife also ingested the substance and is under critical care. The toxic ingredient they consumed was not the medication form of chloroquine used to treat malaria in humans. Instead, it was an ingredient listed on a parasite treatment for fish. [Read the full report.](#)

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.