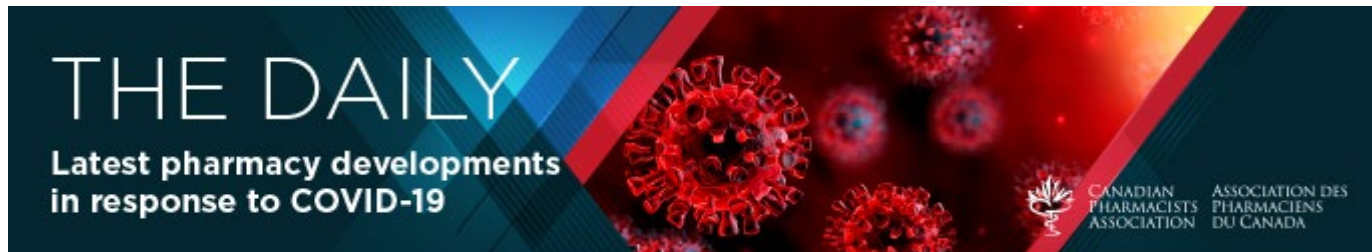


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: March 30, 2020 5:33 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 30



March 30, 2020

CPhA

CPhA's Barry Power speaks to CBC Radio on the need to maintain stable drug supply

Barry Power, CPhA's senior director, digital content, spoke to 11 CBC Morning shows across the country today. During the interviews, which mainly focused on drug supply issues, such as the temporary 30-day supply limits, Barry stressed that the 30-day supply would get patients through 2 quarantine periods if they are self-isolating. Listen to his interview on [Ottawa Morning](#).

Disruption of immunization schedules during the pandemic: Is a delay a problem?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many pharmacists and other providers have stopped providing routine immunization to support reallocation of health care provider time and social distancing. Patients may have questions about the impact of a delay. CPhA has developed a statement on the disruption of immunization schedules to help support pharmacists' decision-making in this area ([English](#), [French](#)).

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

Provincial

New Brunswick Department of Health releases updated COVID-19 testing guidelines

On March 29, the New Brunswick Department of Health released [updated guidelines](#) for testing symptomatic health care workers and staff. The guidelines state that health care workers and staff, including pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, who are symptomatic and provide direct patient contact should be tested for COVID-19 regardless of travel history, and that they should stay off work and self-isolate until test results are negative.

PAS releases joint statement on use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for COVID-19

In a joint message to Saskatchewan's doctors, registered nurses, nurse practitioners and pharmacists, the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan released [a statement](#) outlining the lack of current scientific evidence around the use of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin for COVID-19, as well as growing concerns about shortages and demand for these medications.

National

Health Canada clarifies face mask issues, including use beyond expiry date

Health Canada has issued new guidance for health care providers on [use of the various types of masks and respirators](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak. The guidance addresses N95 respirators and surgical/medical masks and their use beyond their expiry date as long as certain conditions are met.

Health Canada issues statement urging Canadians not to buy more medications than usual

Over the past 2 weeks, CPhA has been urging the federal government to support efforts and messaging about the importance of protecting and maintaining a stable drug supply. Today Health Canada issued a statement recognizing the impact that supply issues could have on Canadians. The release notes that Health Canada understands the stress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and recognizes that Canadians may be concerned about not being able to get medications they rely on for themselves and their loved ones. While the Government of Canada recommends that Canadians refill their prescriptions now so that they do not have to go to a pharmacy if they become sick, it is urging patients not to buy more medication than usual. This will help ensure that all Canadians continue to have access to the medications they need and it will also help prevent drug shortages. For more, see the news release in [English](#) and [French](#).

Beware of COVID-19 scams

With the COVID-19 crisis as the backdrop, fraudsters appear to be redoubling their efforts to steal information or money from unsuspecting users and sending fake emails and text messages as bait in a scheme known as phishing. Some of the schemes come disguised as messages from Shoppers Drug Mart, Public Health Agency of Canada or the World Health Organization. In all cases, the goal is to steal a user's information or money, or infect their devices with malware. For more, see [here](#) and additional information from The Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre [here](#).

McDonald's Canada offers free coffee, tea for health professionals

McDonald's Canada is offering [free medium coffee and tea](#) to all front-line health care workers and emergency personnel, including pharmacists, to thank all those caring for our communities during these unprecedented times. The offer is available at participating McDonald's drive thru windows across Canada. Valid worker ID is required.

International

FDA approves limited use of malaria drugs for COVID-19

A limited emergency-use authorization for 2 antimalarial drugs has been issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat coronavirus patients. In a [statement](#) published yesterday, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services detailed recent donations of medicine to a national stockpile -- including chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, both being investigated as potential COVID-19 treatments. Read CPhA's updated statement in [English](#) or [French](#) on treatment of COVID-19 with chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine.

Newsworthy

"A lot of emotion": What it's like to be a pharmacist during coronavirus pandemic

The past few weeks have been an absolute whirlwind at Caravaggio's IDA Pharmacy in Shelburne, ON. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak in Ontario, staff have been trying to keep up with increasing demands, provide advice to customers and protect themselves against the increasing threat of spread. "The first week and a half...those were a couple of very crazy days," — Margerit Bebawy, owner and manager of the pharmacy. [For more, read here.](#)

Worth Repeating

"When we explain to them it's a desire to make sure everyone has a supply of medication and nobody runs out, most people are very well understanding with that. We have good people in this province." — Winnipeg pharmacist Scott Groen on patient reaction to 30-day prescription drug supply limits. See the [full article here](#).

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.

