

From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
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Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for March 31



March 31, 2020

CPhA

CPhA releases 30-day supply explainer video

We know that the current 30-day supply recommendations may be difficult for some patients to understand. CPhA has developed an explainer video to help pharmacists tell their patients why this recommendation has been made, and why it is so important that we all work together to protect the medication supply for all Canadians. The video is available in [English](#) and in [French](#) and can be shared on your website, in emails or on social media.

CPhA chair Christine Hrudka thanks pharmacists to mark end of Pharmacist Awareness Month

While it wasn't the PAM we expected, CPhA chair Christine Hrudka is [thanking pharmacists](#) across Canada for stepping up during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Our appreciation and thanks go out to you – not just for a month, but every day."

Registration open for PPE Best Practices During COVID-19 webinar:

On **Thursday, April 2 from 12-1pm** ET, join Shelita Dattani (CPhA), Kamran Nisar (PharmaChoice), Christina Adams (Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists), Karey Shuhendler (Canadian Nurses Association) and Glenn Rodriguez (Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia) for a webinar on best practices for using personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect pharmacy staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion will focus on appropriate use, donning, doffing, disposal and various scenarios where PPE might be required. The webinar is free for all pharmacists. [Register here.](#)

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

Provincial

NL pharmacists eligible for essential worker childcare option

In response to a [letter](#) the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) sent to the NL minister of health and community services on March 27, the provincial government's [essential worker childcare option](#) has been extended to community pharmacists.

National

U of A health policy expert aims to cure COVID-19 "infodemic"

While scientists around the world scramble to find a vaccine for the novel coronavirus, University of Alberta health policy expert Timothy Caulfield is hot on the trail of a different kind of cure—one that stops what he calls the COVID-19 "infodemic." Whether it's bogus advice to drink bleach, pound back cocaine and alcohol, or use cow urine as a disinfectant, misinformation about the pandemic is spreading as fast as the virus itself, Caulfield says. Caulfield is one of seven U of A researchers to receive funding through the second round of the federal government's Rapid Research Funding Opportunity, created to aid in the battle against

COVID-19. So far, 11 U of A research projects have received \$5.8 million in grants. [Read more.](#)

International

Human testing for Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine this fall

Johnson & Johnson said it has selected a lead candidate vaccine for the new coronavirus that would move to human trials by September and could be ready for emergency use by early next year. The pharmaceutical company has signed an agreement with the US government's Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to invest US\$1 billion in the effort, it said [in a statement](#).

Community pharmacists will have access to NHS staff testing for COVID-19

Community pharmacists in the UK will be able to [access testing for COVID-19](#) as part of a government drive to get front-line National Health Service (NHS) staff, who are self-isolating back to work. The testing program, which was announced by the government on March 27, was expected to start on the weekend of March 28-29 and will prioritize testing NHS staff in critical care, emergency departments and ambulance services who have been forced to self-isolate at home for 14 days. For more, see [here](#).

Australian government approves temporary changes to medicines regulation

The Australian government has approved a number of [temporary changes to medicines regulation](#) to ensure Australians can continue to access the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) medicines they need as the COVID-19 outbreak unfolds. These new temporary measures will improve access to medicines, reduce the burden on GPs, and support social distancing and self-isolation. In particular, the measures focus on continued dispensing, home delivery of medicines, substitution and provisions to prevent stockpiling.

Australia Post launches pharmacy home delivery service

Australia Post has [announced a pharmacy home delivery service](#) to support vulnerable Australians, including those isolating themselves at home on the advice of a medical practitioner, people over 70 and people with chronic health conditions. The announcement comes after the federal government announced it would allocate A\$25 million to fund home medicine services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pharmacies can offer free delivery on prescriptions to their customers and can take advantage of the recently announced increased Australian government rebate.

Newsworthy

Don't stockpile your medication; talk to your pharmacist about your health

U of T Pharmacy professor Zubin Austin [weighs in](#) on Canadians' stockpiling medication during COVID-19 and why speaking to your pharmacist can go a long way in preventing drug shortages.

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.

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