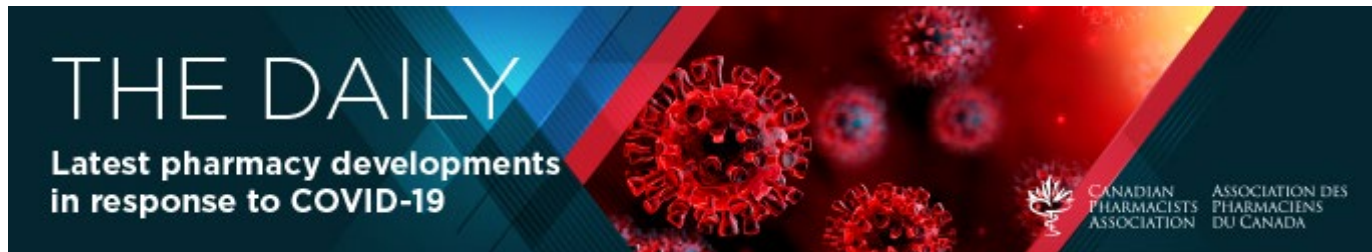


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** May 1, 2020 4:50 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 1



**May 1, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***CPhA issues letter to federal members of parliament re: drug shortages and 30-day supply***

On April 29 CPhA issued a [letter \(en français\)](#) to all federal members of parliament to provide background information on the 30-day supply directives from a pharmacy perspective. The letter outlines some of CPhA's major concerns around drug shortages and the drug supply chain, and acknowledges the added pressure the policy has placed on both patients and pharmacy teams. The letter concludes with our commitment to review the 30 day policy on a regular basis and to work towards relaxing it as soon as it is practicable and safe to do so.

### ***New drug therapy document: Dipyridamole/ASA Shortage***

CPhA and medSask developed [this document](#) to assist health care providers in managing patient care in the event of a shortage of dipyridamole/ASA. A French version will be available soon.

### ***The COVID Conversations: Opioid Stewardship Under the New CDSA Exemptions***

CPhA's next COVID Conversations webinar will take place on **Thursday, May 7 at 11am EDT**. Join host Shelita Dattani for a discussion about how the new Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) exemptions can support continuity of care in your daily practice. Featured guests include Kelly Grindrod, Pharmacy Professor at University of Waterloo; Angela Sheasgreen, Pharmacy Manager at Elsipogtog Pharmasave; Lisa Bishop, Associate Professor at the School of Pharmacy, Memorial University of Newfoundland; and Mona Kwong, Pharmacy Advisor and Director at Pharmacy Addictions Fellowship Program, BC Centre on Substance Use. [Registration is now open.](#)

### ***The COVID Conversations: Recordings now available***

Recordings for CPhA's most recent COVID Conversations webinars are now available online. [Supporting Pharmacists' Mental Health and Wellness](#) and [COVID-19 and the Global Experience](#) are both available as full recordings, or in short, focused clips. Our entire COVID Conversations webinar library is open-access and available to all.

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**

### ***COVID-19 impact on mental health pulse check***

The Mental Health Commission of Canada, the Conference Board of Canada and Workplace Safety and Prevention Services have teamed up to offer a [Pulse Check Survey](#) to capture the perceptions of the average person living in Canada on how COVID-19 has impacted their mental health and what they are doing to cope. The survey takes 5 minutes or less to complete.

### ***Anxiety and depression have spiked among Canadians: Survey***

The number of Canadians who say they're experiencing high levels of anxiety has quadrupled since the pandemic began last month, according to a [new survey](#) commissioned by Mental Health Research Canada. The survey asked 1803 people about the state of their mental health and found that feelings of anxiety and depression are steadily rising. Before COVID-19, 5% of Canadians reported high to extreme levels of anxiety. That number has multiplied to 20% in the last 5 weeks. Self-reported cases of depression have more than doubled, from 4% to 10%.

## International

### ***RPS supports pharmacies as "safe spaces" for those experiencing domestic abuse***

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is [supporting the launch](#) of an initiative from UK SAYS NO MORE for pharmacies to create safe spaces for those experiencing domestic abuse. "Home is not a safe place for people experiencing domestic abuse. Victims of abuse need support to help stay safe, which is why the UK SAYS NO MORE initiative to create safe spaces in nominated pharmacies is so important," says RPS president Sandra Gidley. "During the pandemic, when options for victims are even more limited than usual, pharmacies can provide the safe environment needed to get support. It's as simple as making your consultation room available for a phone call to the relevant agency who can help. A quick, simple action which could literally save a life."

### ***Overseas pharmacists granted visa extension***

The RPS and the British Pharmaceutical Students' Association (BPSA) have welcomed [news](#) that pharmacists from overseas will be granted an automatic free extension to their visa. The Home Office has announced that front-line workers with visas due to expire before October 1, 2020, will receive an automatic one-year extension. This announcement follows a [joint letter](#) from RPS and BPSA to the Home Secretary calling for a visa extension for pre-registration pharmacists to help them focus on contributing to the provision of key services, combating COVID-19 and saving lives.

### ***Restrictions tightened on ethanol in hand sanitizer***

Reuters is [reporting](#) that the Trump administration has tightened restrictions on the use of ethanol in hand sanitizer, citing safety concerns and forcing some suppliers to halt sales at a time of soaring demand. The crackdown is meant to protect consumers from potentially dangerous impurities in hand sanitizer, but could worsen shortages at a time when households, hospitals and nursing homes need sanitizer to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

### ***Operation Warp Speed aims to cut development time for COVID-19 vaccine***

The Trump administration is organizing a Manhattan Project-style effort to drastically cut the time needed to develop a COVID-19 vaccine, with a goal of making enough doses for most Americans by year's end, [Bloomberg News reports](#). "Operation Warp Speed" will pull together drug makers, government agencies and the military to try to cut development time for a vaccine by as much as 8 months. As part of the arrangement, taxpayers will shoulder much of the financial risk that vaccine candidates may fail, instead of drug companies.

## Newsworthy

### ***Pharmacist responds to letters regarding limited drug supply***

Julia Chan, a pharmacist from Richmond, BC, [wrote to the Vancouver Province](#) regarding previous letters to the editor addressing the limited drug supply issue. "What has not been emphasized enough is that these shortages are occurring at the level of the manufacturers and at the wholesalers, who in turn have been advised by government to very judiciously allocate supplies to community pharmacies," she writes. "All community pharmacies are making a great effort to order in the maximum level of stock that we can in order to fully meet the needs of our patients, but we quite often receive either a very limited supply of the ordered medication or none at all because the wholesalers have had to implement limited stock allocations to each pharmacy so that all pharmacies can receive at least some stock."

### ***"Not a silver bullet": Experts say Canada shouldn't rush to approve promising new COVID-19 drug remdesivir***

The hopeful buzz around the drug remdesivir and its potential as a COVID-19 treatment was so deafening Wednesday that it

triggered an unexpected surge in the financial markets. New evidence “has proven... that a drug can block this virus,” enthused Dr. Anthony Fauci, the US government’s top infectious disease expert. But Canadian experts [were not quite so exuberant](#) on Thursday, saying they need to see more data from a promising US trial before recommending the drug as a standard treatment for the coronavirus. And even then, its benefits may be limited, they argue. Some also worry about a more fundamental problem: whether there would even be enough of the drug to routinely hand it out here.

### **Worth Repeating**

“Heading home at 11:00 pm to do it all again tomorrow is typical of the long hours and effort we all willingly put in day in and day out during COVID-19.” — Alberta pharmacist Neil Cameron posting on [Twitter](#), the last photo submitted in yesterday’s in Day of Your Pharmacy Life campaign #PharmacyLifeCA

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.