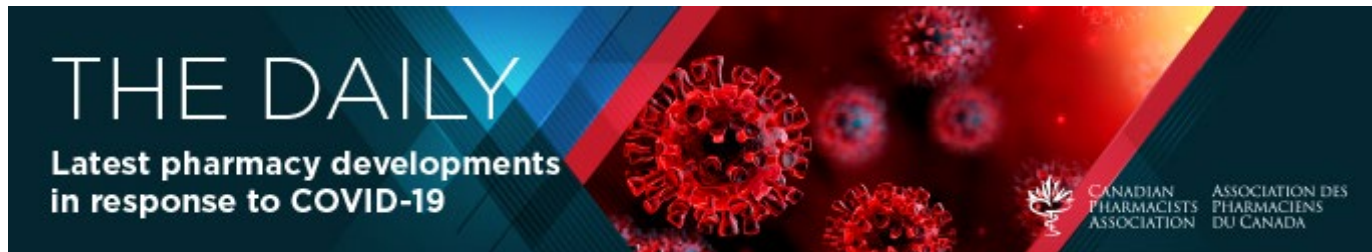


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** May 12, 2020 4:46 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 12



**May 12, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***The COVID Conversations: New webinar recording now available***

The recording for CPhA's latest COVID Conversations webinar, [Opioid Stewardship Under the New CDSA Exemptions](#), is now available. Watch the full recording or review the specific questions that are most relevant for you as CPhA's Shelita Dattani discusses how the new Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) exemptions can support continuity of care in your daily practice. Featured guests for this webinar 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.

### ***Managing COVID-19 at home: New resource for patients***

CPhA has developed a new resource that pharmacists can share with patients to help them manage COVID-19 symptoms at home. The document is available on our website in English ([colour](#), [black & white](#)) and French ([colour](#), [black & white](#)).

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).

## **Provincial**

### ***U of A pharmaceutical institute leads effort to fill looming hospital drug shortage***

A University of Alberta-initiated institute is leading a [province-wide effort](#) to fill the looming shortage of drugs that are vital in the fight against COVID-19. Applied Pharmaceutical Innovation (API)—a not-for-profit institute housed within the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences to help commercialize pharmaceuticals—is coordinating labs across the Edmonton region to manufacture the drugs needed to put people on a ventilator. "It's an emerging issue that in the longer term will likely overtake the lack of ventilators and personal protective equipment as the primary barrier to caring for patients," said Andrew MacIsaac, API CEO and assistant dean in the faculty.

### ***AB approves additional masks for use during COVID-19***

Alberta has approved 5 new types of masks similar to the N95 that can be used by all provincially regulated employees, including health care workers facing the COVID-19 pandemic. A [ministerial order](#) signed by labour and immigration minister Jason Copping May 3 amended the Occupational Health and Safety Code to temporarily allow for 5 additional types of protective masks on worksites that meet international standards. Alberta Health Services says none of the newly approved models—including the KN95, P2, FFP2, Korean first class and DS respirators—are currently being used at any of its sites nor are they on order, and the KN95 would not be used in a health care setting.

### ***Medical cannabis firm working with researchers on "plant-based" COVID-19 vaccine***

A Saskatoon firm specializing in medical cannabis science is lending its expertise to the University of Saskatchewan-based VIDO-InterVac research lab's quest for a COVID-19 vaccine, [reports CTV Saskatoon](#). The lab, which received \$23 million in [federal funding](#) in March to aid its COVID-19-related research, recently moved into animal trials as part of its research. Now, ZYUS Life Sciences is working with researchers at VIDO-InterVac to help create a vaccine that could potentially be "plant-based" according to the company.

## National

### ***IMC welcomes federal Industry Strategy Council announcement***

Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) has released a [statement](#) welcoming the federal government's [creation of an Industry Strategy Council](#) focused on the impact of COVID-19 on industry. "As we turn our attention to economic recovery, it is important that the country's job creators, investors and innovators have the opportunity to inform the federal government's planning and decision-making at this critical time," reads the statement. "Not only does the innovative medicines industry have an important economic impact in Canada, our members are also vital to the country's healthcare system, as the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated."

### ***Health Canada issues safety advisory for certain respirator masks***

In an [advisory](#) issued last night, Health Canada reports that it has contacted companies that may be importing or distributing certain respirators, including KN95 respirators, in Canada. The advisory notes that these respirators may not meet safety and effectiveness standards and Health Canada has requested that they immediately stop sale and relabel current stock as face masks (not respirators). Provincial and territorial health authorities and health care institutions should review their inventories of KN95 respirators to confirm that they meet the Government of Canada technical specifications for health care settings for COVID-19 response.

### ***Poll finds Canadians are not supportive of mandatory COVID-19 tracking apps***

Most Canadians would not support governments requiring them to download a tracking app to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19, a new [Mainstreet Research poll](#) suggests. Just over 57% of the 1404 respondents in the firm's automated telephone survey, conducted between May 6-7, voiced disapproval of mandating the use of a tracking app, with that number highest among men (60.3%), people between the ages of 18-34 (66.1%), BC residents (68%), Albertans (65.5%), those in the Prairies (59.3%) and Quebecers (63.7%). Disapproval of a mandated tracking app is also higher (60.7%) among respondents with school-aged children.

### ***Being out in public is stressful during pandemic, new survey suggests***

As restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 persist, a [new survey](#) suggests that more than half of Canadians find it stressful to venture out in public. In a web survey conducted by polling firm Leger and the Association for Canadian Studies, 57% of respondents said leaving their home for a public space caused anxiety. While the figures were relatively consistent across the country, they reached a high of 64% in Ontario and a low of 48% in Alberta. In comparison, 64% of American respondents said they found it somewhat or very stressful to go out in public during the pandemic.

## International

### ***WHO survey on health and safety of health workers in COVID-19***

The World Health Organization (WHO) is conducting an [international survey](#) to identify the most common occupational risks for the health and safety of health workers and the measures for their prevention in the context of the ongoing pandemic of Corona Virus Infectious Disease (COVID-19). The survey is intended for health workers, managers, and practitioners providing services for protecting the health and safety of workers in health facilities. The results will be used to inform action at all levels for improving the protection of health and safety of health workers in the ongoing response to COVID-19. The survey is available in English, Chinese, French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili and should take approximately 7 minutes to complete.

### ***APhA seeks clarity on payment for COVID-19 testing***

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) and other national pharmacy groups [have written](#) to the assistant secretary of health, Brett Giroir, to ask for added clarity on efforts to achieve more widespread COVID-19 testing capacity by pharmacists and pharmacies. While testing is occurring now at some pharmacies, there are significant barriers to ramping up capacity, including a clear pathway to payment for pharmacist testing services. According to the letter, “A sustainable business solution for pharmacists and pharmacies must be established for all practice settings, particularly when point-of-care tests become more widely available. Legislation would help provide clarity to ensure testing access for Medicare beneficiaries in all communities. Congress can fill the gap by authorizing pharmacists as recognized Part B providers of testing services to enable appropriate payment for these services.”

### ***FDA grants emergency use authorization to first at-home collection diagnostic test***

Officials with the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the first diagnostic test that will allow at-home collection of saliva samples for COVID-19 testing, according to [Drug Topics](#). Rutgers RUCDR Infinite Biologics’ COVID-19 test received the amended EUA for at-home use, which follows the FDA’s [recent decision](#) to grant emergency approval to the saliva-based test for use by health care workers at testing sites.

### ***RPS guidance on contingency legislation to enable supply of controlled drugs***

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) has [issued guidance](#) on contingency legislation to enable the supply of controlled drugs for pharmacy teams wishing to prepare. Controlled drug legislation has been introduced to enable ministers in Great Britain and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland to “switch on” flexibilities for the supply of controlled drugs during a pandemic; however, these flexibilities have not been activated at this time.

### ***SEFH position paper on Telepharmacy***

The Spanish Hospital Pharmacists Society (SEFH) has released a [telepharmacy position statement](#) (in Spanish) in which they present a model for pharmacist care for patients outside the hospital setting. The statement covers 4 areas: pharmacotherapeutic follow-up, information and training for patients and caregivers, coordination with the multidisciplinary team, and informed dispensing and delivery.

### ***China promoting COVID-19 treatments based on unproven traditional medicines***

The Chinese government is heavily promoting traditional medicines as treatments for COVID-19. The remedies, a major part of China’s health care system, are even being sent to countries including Iran and Italy as international aid, [according to Nature](#). But scientists outside China say it is dangerous to support therapies that have yet to be proven safe and effective. There are currently no proven treatments for the deadly respiratory disease caused by COVID-19, although many countries are trialling existing and experimental drugs. So far, only one—the antiviral remdesivir—has been shown, in randomized control trials, to have [some potential to speed up recovery](#).

## **Newsorthy**

### ***Archaic paper records submitted by fax hold up real-time COVID-19 data***

The old-fashioned way Canada records deaths means the country could be missing out on data important to addressing the COVID-19 crisis, reports the [Canadian Press](#). The confirmed number of COVID-19 deaths—about 4900 across Canada as of Monday afternoon—represents people who have tested positive for the viral disease. Experts suggest that may not tell the whole story.

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.