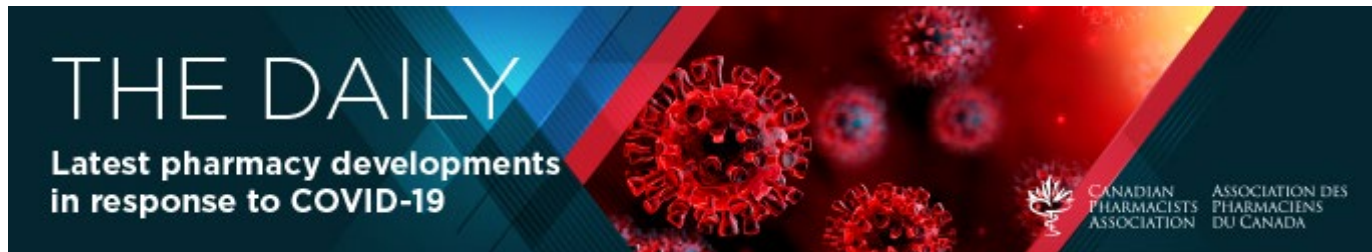


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** May 14, 2020 4:39 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 14



**May 14, 2020**

*\*\*Please note: In recognition of the Victoria Day weekend, The Daily will not be published on May 15 or 18. The next issue will be published on Tuesday, May 19.\*\**

## **CPhA**

### ***A day in your pharmacy life***

Thank you and merci to everyone who took the time to share scenes from your #PharmacyLifeCA #PharmacieVieCA on April 30! Thank you for your dedication to your patients and your teams, and for truly stepping up during the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a look back at Thursday, April 30, a [day in your pharmacy life!](#)

### ***The COVID Conversations: The Role of Pharmacy in Public and Population Health***

Join co-hosts Glen Doucet and Shelita Dattani on **Wednesday, May 20** at **11 AM EDT** for a discussion on the role that pharmacy can or should play in overall public and population health. Leading pharmacist experts in public health and community pharmacy owners on the front lines in both Canada and the United States will review some of the pros and cons of pharmacists providing public health services such as immunizations and point-of-care testing, with a particular emphasis on the debate surrounding the role of pharmacy in testing for COVID-19. This session's featured guests include Michael Hogue, president, American Pharmacists Association; Nancy Waite, professor and associate director clinical education, University of Waterloo; Beth Bryan, pharmacist and owner, Surgoinsville Pharmacy; and Kristen Watt, pharmacist and owner, Kristen's Pharmacy. [Registration is now open.](#)

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**

### ***ON government provides relief for Ontarians using the Ontario Drug Benefit Program***

The Ontario government [announced](#) yesterday that people using the Ontario Drug Benefit Program will not be required to pay any co-payment until July 1, 2020, for any prescription of 30+ days that is now being dispensed in installments. In addition, existing and new Trillium Drug Program households can apply for an income reassessment to help reduce the financial burden for families during the outbreak. The Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) [welcomed the news](#). "These efforts are the results of the ongoing collaboration between the OPA and the Ontario government," reads the statement. "This policy will help ensure that all Ontarians can get access to the medication they need during this unprecedented time. We want to thank the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Christine Elliott for her partnership and dedication to supporting Ontarians during this challenging time. We look forward to continuing to work with the Ministry of Health in responding to the challenge of COVID-19 and ensuring that all Ontarians have access to the care they need when and where they need it."

## National

### ***Pediatricians urged to look out for mysterious syndrome that may trail COVID-19***

Canadian pediatricians have been issued a “Be On the Lookout” advisory for an acute inflammatory disease similar to Kawasaki disease that has been observed affecting children during the coronavirus pandemic, [the Toronto Star reports](#). The Public Health Alert issued by the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program is asking Canadian pediatricians to report any cases of children whose symptoms suggest Kawasaki disease, whether or not they have tested positive for COVID-19. But the alert also warns doctors that children with those symptoms during the current coronavirus may deteriorate quickly, and that fast treatment may be necessary. That alert comes on the heels of a similar alert released by the New York City Health Department last week, and similar observations in the UK 2 weeks ago.

### ***GSC survey reveals growing interest in virtual health care***

A [survey conducted by Green Shield Canada \(GSC\)](#) suggests that there is “rapidly increasing interest” in virtual health care services, as physical distancing measures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic have deterred health plan members from in-person interactions. Surveying 500 of its health benefits plan members, 74% of respondents indicated that they are willing to use a virtual service to consult with a physician and 67% said they would fill a prescription from an online pharmacy.

### ***Ipsos poll finds 72% of Canadians support mandatory coronavirus vaccine***

More than two-thirds of Canadians believe a vaccine for COVID-19 should be mandatory for all, a new poll by Ipsos suggests. A [survey conducted exclusively for Global News](#) last week found that 72% of Canadians agree that vaccination against COVID-19 should be obligatory across the country once a vaccine is developed and available. Canadian bioethicist Kerry Bowman says the poll results suggest “an upward trend from the normal ambivalence about vaccines” and could be attributed to how people are feeling at this point in the pandemic.

## International

### ***Mail-order prescription drug delivery rises during COVID-19***

More patients are turning to mail or couriers to get their prescription drugs during coronavirus lockdowns, a shift from the traditional visit with a pharmacist, which is expected to endure after the pandemic subsides, [The Wall Street Journal reports](#) (subscription required). During the last week of March, mail-order prescriptions increased 21% from the previous year to bring their share of the prescription drug market to 5.8%, the highest in at least 2 years, according to data from SunTrust Robinson Humphrey analyst Gregg Gilbert.

### ***California pharmacists permitted to order and test for COVID-19***

California governor Gavin Newsom [announced](#) that the California Department of Consumer Affairs and State Board of Pharmacy will allow pharmacists to collect specimens for COVID-19 tests and order tests for consumers. The specimens will be delivered to and processed at public health, university or commercial labs. This decision comes after The California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) [asked the governor](#) to issue an Executive Order authorizing pharmacists in California to order and administer COVID-19 tests during this public health crisis, stating that doing so will rapidly and safely expand California’s COVID-19 testing capacity by leveraging the highly trained professional pharmacy workforce.

### ***Remdesivir tested with other drugs to fight COVID-19***

The promise and limitations of remdesivir, the first drug to prove capable of helping to fight COVID-19, have kicked off efforts to see if it can work better in combination with other treatments and to create new, easier methods of administering it, [The Wall Street Journal writes](#). There are currently 6 COVID-19 drug trials under way that specify testing remdesivir with another medicine. Another 5 ongoing trials are examining drugs that would be given in tandem with whatever a hospital uses as standard treatment—which increasingly means remdesivir.

### ***Greater access for remdesivir***

Seeking to blunt concerns about access to its remdesivir treatment for COVID-19, Gilead Sciences signed agreements with 5

generic companies in India and Pakistan to manufacture and distribute the experimental medicine to 127 countries, [STAT says](#). Under the agreements, the companies can set their own prices, but will not have to pay royalties to Gilead until the World Health Organization (WHO) declares an end to the public health emergency for the novel coronavirus, or until another medicine or vaccine is approved to treat or prevent COVID-19.

### ***Community pharmacy teams should feel safe at work***

The Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) and Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) in the UK have written a [joint letter](#) to Matt Hancock, secretary of state for health and social care, calling on him to facilitate discussions between government, community pharmacy employer representatives and the trade unions to agree on safe working practices across the sector. The PDA has said that with increasing strains on PPE supplies and especially after the Prime Minister's announcement of changes to the lockdown rules in England, urgent discussions are needed to consider the question of how the safety of staff working in community pharmacies can be maintained.

### ***RPS training resource for critical care***

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) in the UK has published a [training resource](#) for pharmacists deployed to or new to critical care during COVID-19. Developed with national experts, this practical resource enables pharmacists to upskill quickly.

## **Newsworthy**

### ***Deadly 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of Spanish flu pandemic of 1918 may hold clues for reopening today***

As governments ease up on COVID-19-related lockdowns, policy-makers should heed the lessons learned from the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic and the potential deadly consequences of removing physical distancing restrictions too quickly, experts say in a [CBC report](#). "This is one of those rare moments that historians can actually more or less agree that there are lessons you can learn that are fairly straightforward and could be applied in the present," said Christopher McKnight Nichols, an associate professor of history and director of the Center for the Humanities at Oregon State University.

## **Worth Repeating**

"This #ThankfulThursday we are paying tribute to pharmacists and pharmacies everywhere, who are working tirelessly to keep people healthy and safe, whilst under huge pressure. To all pharmacies that are relied on by their local communities – thank you!" — [Tweet from @RoyalFamily](#) expressing gratitude for pharmacists and pharmacies

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.