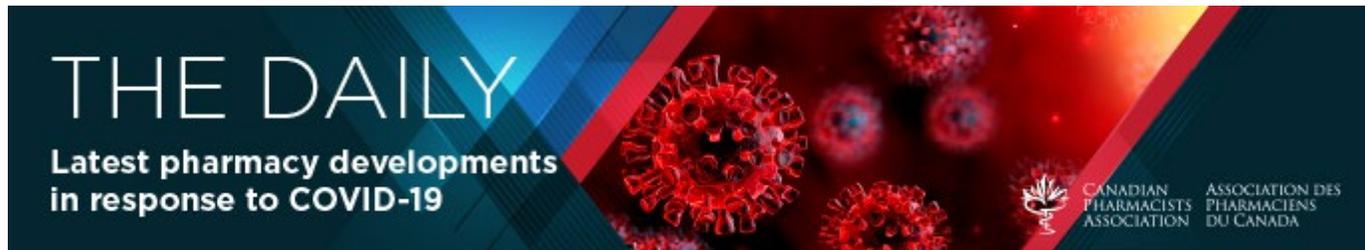


**From:** Public & Professional Affairs Department  
**Sent:** May 19, 2020 5:08 PM  
**Subject:** The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 19



**May 19, 2020**

## **CPhA**

### ***National Pharmacists' Survey on Preparing for Influenza Season***

CPhA has launched a [new national survey](#) to explore the issues being faced by community pharmacy in preparing for the upcoming influenza season. Please take 5-10 minutes to answer our brief survey to help us understand and prioritize your concerns relating to providing influenza immunizations (injectable and nasal formulations) this upcoming flu season. While this survey is designed primarily for practising community pharmacy staff, we welcome all insights. The survey is available in both English and French. Deadline to complete is 11:59pm EDT on **May 26**.

### ***Senate Standing Committee to examine COVID-19 response***

The Senate Social Affairs, Science and Technology Standing Committee [meets tomorrow](#) to examine the overall response to the pandemic to date with presentations from CPhA's Barry Power, senior director, digital content and Shelita Dattani, director, practice development and knowledge translation. Other presenting organizations include the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Nurses Association, the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada, the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada and the Paramedic Association of Canada.

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

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**

### ***SK lifts supply limits on prescription drugs***

The Saskatchewan government [announced](#) that it is lifting the supply limits on prescription drugs that were introduced to guard against drug shortages. Saskatchewan residents who have prescriptions for long-term medications will be able to fill prescriptions as they did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, except in limited situations where a specific drug remains in short supply. "We continue to support the Ministry of Health's careful management through this challenge to ensure Saskatchewan residents get the medications they need," Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan CEO Dawn Martin says. "Front-line

pharmacists work hard every day for their patients, and will continue to do so through this difficult and unpredictable time.” The supply limits did not affect most Saskatchewan residents, as 87% of Saskatchewan prescriptions are filled for a 34-day supply of medication.

## National

### ***Canada's first COVID-19 vaccine trials approved for Dalhousie University***

A Halifax research team will be working with a Chinese manufacturer to run the first Canadian clinical trials for a possible COVID-19 vaccine, [CBC reports](#). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made the announcement during his daily remarks over the weekend. The trials have been approved by Health Canada and will take place at the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV) at Dalhousie University in Halifax.

### ***Health Canada collaborates with international partners to address pandemic***

Health Canada recently [published a notice](#) to industry detailing its collaborations with international partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. These cooperative efforts aim to ensure that Canadians' health product needs are being met quickly and effectively during the outbreak, and that Canada's policies and regulatory strategies are consistent with those in force around the world.

## International

### ***RPS calls for pharmacists to have greater powers to ensure access to medications***

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) is [calling for medicines legislation to be amended](#) so that community pharmacists can make changes to prescriptions to minimize unnecessary delays in providing patients with their medicines. In the event of a medicine being unavailable, the proposed amendments would allow pharmacists to make changes to the strength and formulation dispensed or to supply an equivalent generic version of a medicine on a prescription without having to contact the prescriber every time. RPS president Sandra Gidley says, “We fully support pharmacists to use their professional judgement to put patients first and manage these changes to prescriptions. COVID-19 has seen an emphasis on pharmacists being empowered to do the right thing for patients.” The call is part of the RPS submission to the Health Select Committee on COVID-19 and pharmacy, which the Committee will publish on its [website](#).

### ***FIP emphasizes pharmacists' value during COVID-19***

Health Ministers at the 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly will be told this week about pharmacists' value in primary health care during COVID-19. Zuzana Kusynová, from the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), said in a [statement](#): “Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, we have seen an even greater reliance on pharmacists in supporting communities and contributing to the resilience of health systems. We pharmacists continue to ensure that people get their treatments and professional advice as part of primary health care.”

### ***Coronavirus vaccine possible in about a year, says EU agency***

A vaccine to counter the new coronavirus could be approved in about a year in an "optimistic" scenario, an agency that approves medicines for the European Union said in a [Thomson Reuters report](#). As the world rushes to develop a vaccine, the European Union, hard hit by COVID-19, fears it may not have sufficient supplies, especially if a vaccine was to be developed in the United States or China. The European Medicines Agency (EMA), in communication with 33 developers, is doing all it can to speed up the approval process, the EMA's head of vaccines, Marco Cavaleri, says. He is skeptical of claims any could be ready by September.

### ***Early data show COVID-19 vaccine generates immune response***

A candidate vaccine for COVID-19 that has been developed by the drug maker Moderna appears to generate an immune response similar to the response seen in people who have been infected by the virus and recovered, the company said yesterday, [STAT reports](#). In a Phase 1 trial, 8 patients who received 2 doses of the vaccine at the lowest and middle doses tested

—25 and 100 micrograms—developed neutralizing antibodies to the virus at levels similar to people who had recovered from infection. The data were limited and from only a small number of participants in the trial, led by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, but they are still likely to be seen as encouraging.

### ***COVID-19 vaccine access for all countries: Sanofi***

Sanofi confirmed that it would make its COVID-19 vaccine available in all countries, hours after chief executive Paul Hudson said the US will get first access, the [Associated Press writes](#). Hudson explained that the US was first in line to fund Sanofi vaccine research, but his comments prompted angry reaction from French officials and health experts, who noted the company, which has global headquarters in Paris, has benefited from tens of millions of euros in research credits from the French state in recent years.

### ***Clinical trial based on antibodies from recovered COVID-19 patients could start soon***

Takeda Pharmaceutical could start a clinical trial as early as July for a potential treatment of COVID-19 that is based on antibodies from the blood of recovered patients, [Reuters reports](#). The clinical trial would include hundreds of patients and take several months to complete. If successful, Takeda could file for approval by US authorities this year. The number of patients who could be aided by the Takeda treatment, initially called TAK-888, depends in part on the availability of blood donations.

### ***Gilead to end COVID-19 drug trials, adding to access worry: Researchers***

Gilead Sciences' 2 clinical studies of its potential coronavirus treatment remdesivir will wind down by the end of May, closing off a path of patient access to the antiviral medication, according to US researchers involved in the studies. The drug was given emergency use authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration on May 1, but hospitals are concerned about access. "We would like to see equitable and transparent distribution of this very precious resource," Dr. Helen Boucher, chief of infectious diseases at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, [told Reuters](#).

## **Newsworthy**

### ***Australia: Access to flu vaccine stock has been erratic in the face of "unprecedented" demand, though more should be available in pharmacies soon***

Health authorities have been pushing early influenza vaccination this year to reduce the burden of the flu season combined with COVID-19, leading to a huge rush on pharmacies. However, access to flu vaccines has been inconsistent across pharmacies, with some receiving large amounts of stock on time, while others received them late or less than the quantity ordered. Community pharmacy proprietor Caroline Diamantis, who runs a pharmacy in the Sydney suburb of Balmain, [told the Australian Journal of Pharmacy](#) (AJP) it's been "a rollercoaster of stock and no stock, and stock and no stock."

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.