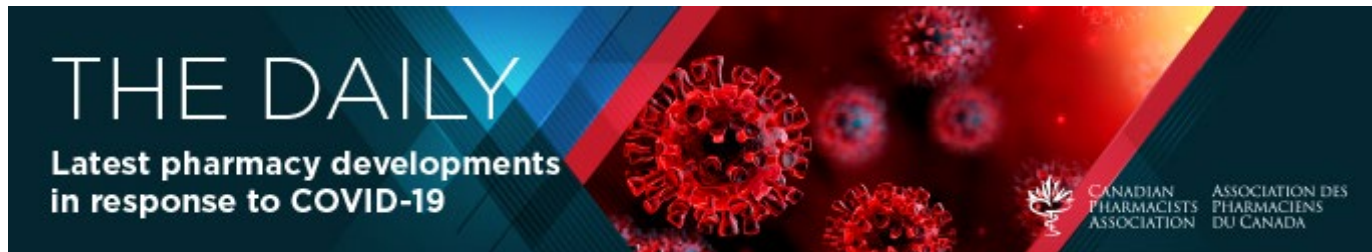


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: May 20, 2020 5:01 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 20



May 20, 2020

CPhA

Dr. Kelly Grindrod named 2020 Canadian Pharmacist of the Year

Professor, researcher and primary care pharmacist Dr. Kelly Grindrod has been [announced](#) as CPhA's 2020 [Canadian Pharmacist of the Year](#). Her innovative approach to pharmacist education and steadfast dedication to supporting pharmacists in their day-to-day practices are qualities that have become even more important and valuable amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. "Pharmacies stay open no matter the circumstances," she says. "They picked up a lot of the slack when COVID shut down communities, are working around the clock to manage drug shortages, and will play a critical role if a vaccine becomes available."

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

Provincial

NS lifts 30-day supply limits

The 30-day prescription measure implemented in an effort to prevent drug shortages has been successful in replenishing the supply of a number of medications in Nova Scotia, says the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists in [a statement](#). Pharmacies have been advised that they may begin dispensing prescription quantities as prescribed for medications that have a stable supply. However, as global disruption in the manufacturing and supply of drugs continues to impact Canada, some medications remain in short and unstable supply. For these drugs, pharmacies will continue to dispense a 30-day quantity.

National

Coffee with Claire: Interdisciplinary perspectives on COVID-19

On May 22 at 12pm EDT, the Canadian Nurses Association's (CNA) Coffee with Claire webinar will focus on interdisciplinary perspectives and priorities related to COVID-19. CPhA's Shelita Dattani, director, practice development and knowledge translation, will be one of this episode's expert guests, along with Dr. Sandy Buchman, president of the Canadian Medical Association and Jan Christianson-Wood, president of the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The panellists will provide insight into strengths, challenges and areas of collaborative opportunity as we collectively work to meet the health-related needs of people in Canada during this unprecedented time. [Registration is open](#) to all.

Ontario and Atlantic Canada have had the largest spike in anxiety, depression since pandemic began: survey

A new survey examining how Canadians' mental health has changed since the start of the pandemic reveals that Ontario and Atlantic Canada have experienced the largest spike in anxiety and depression, [reports CTV](#). Conducted by Pollara Strategic Insights, results of the survey show that across all provinces the number of people who reported their anxiety as high has quadrupled since the COVID-19 outbreak. The rate of high levels of depression has more than doubled and experts say it could

get worse.

Spanish-labelled inhalers approved for import

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Health Canada [has added](#) Spanish-labelled Salbutamol Aldo-Union metered-dose aerosol (100 mcg salbutamol/metered dose) to the List of Drugs for Exceptional Importation and Sale. The Spanish-labelled salbutamol inhalers have the same active ingredient and strength as salbutamol inhalers on the Canadian market and are used in a comparable way.

International

Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act pre-empts states' licensing laws for pharmacist COVID-19 testing

In an [Advisory Opinion](#), the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) says the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act pre-empts any state or local requirement that prohibits or effectively prohibits a pharmacist from ordering and administering a COVID-19 diagnostic test that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized. Pharmacists, pharmacies and one trade association asked the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) to clarify whether the PREP act overrides state licensing laws.

Vaccine experts say Moderna didn't produce data critical to assessing COVID-19 vaccine

Heavy hearts soared Monday with news that Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, the frontrunner in the American market, seemed to be generating an immune response in Phase 1 trial subjects. The company's stock valuation also surged, hitting \$29 billion, an astonishing feat for a company that currently does not sell any products. But was there good reason for so much enthusiasm? When [asked by STAT](#), several vaccine experts concluded that, based on the information made available by the Cambridge, Massachusetts-based company, there's really no way to know how impressive—or not—the vaccine may be.

Contract for US manufacture of drugs a 'gamechanger': ASHP

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) says in a [statement](#) that the US Department of Health and Human Services' agreement to produce medications and pharmaceutical ingredients needed during the COVID-19 response and future public health emergencies has the potential to be a "gamechanger that could significantly strengthen the US drug supply chain and relieve many of the factors that contribute to drug shortages." ASHP has long advocated for actions that will support the preparedness and increase the resilience of the pharmaceutical sector's critical infrastructure. ASHP believes that this new agreement is a strong first step towards creating a safer, more reliable drug supply in the US.

Gilead increases number of remdesivir doses to US hospitals

Gilead Sciences, the drug company behind the experimental COVID-19 therapy [remdesivir](#), has increased the number of doses it is donating to the US federal government from 607,000 to around 940,000, [STAT has learned](#). The new number appeared, with no acknowledgement of the shift, in a letter that a US Department of Health and Human Services official sent to governors last week.

EMA urged to release full clinical trial data upon authorizing COVID-19 treatments

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is being urged by several international clinical evidence experts, including a key German government agency, to publish all trial data on the same day any product is authorized for use against COVID-19, [STAT reports](#). Germany's Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care and the Cochrane independent watchdog argued that it is critical to promptly release clinical study reports to support further research and proper medical care.

Newsworthy

Doctors across Canada seeing a drop in number of routine child vaccinations

Doctors across Canada [say they are seeing a drop](#) in the number of child vaccinations, fuelling concerns it could lead to an increase in preventable diseases while the country is still struggling with COVID-19. Some parents appear to be avoiding routine vaccinations over fears that going to a health care facility could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. In other cases, some

doctors are choosing to postpone or cancel routine vaccinations because of clinic closings or because they don't have enough personal protective equipment to see patients safely, according to infectious disease experts.

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.