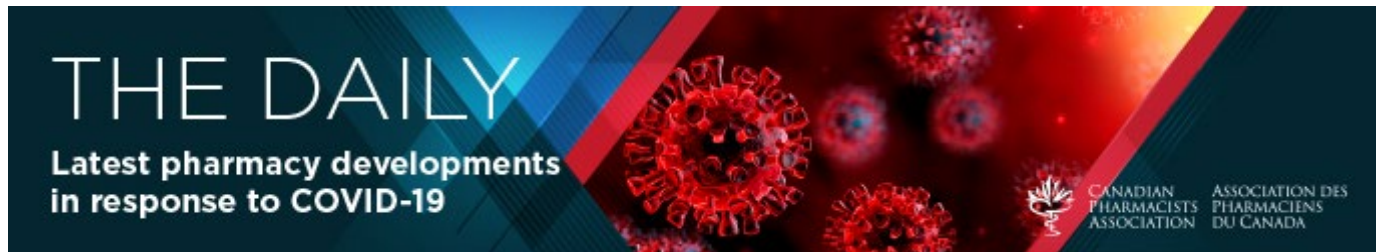


From: Public & Professional Affairs Department
Sent: May 5, 2020 4:48 PM
Subject: The Daily: CPhA's COVID-19 Update for May 5



May 5, 2020

CPhA

The COVID Conversations: Opioid Stewardship Under the New CDSA Exemptions

CPhA's next COVID Conversations webinar will take place this **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.](#)

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

Provincial

Pharmacists left out of temporary pandemic payment for ON essential workers

Pharmacists have been left out of a \$4 per hour pandemic pay bump recently announced by the Ontario government. In response, the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) issued a statement asking the government to reconsider the exclusion of publicly paid pharmacy professionals who work in hospitals across the province. "Pharmacy professionals in hospitals are equally at risk and are just as stressed and overworked as those healthcare workers currently identified in the policy," Allan Malek, executive vice-president and chief pharmacy officer for OPA, [wrote on Twitter](#). He added that OPA and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) are asking the government to include pharmacy professionals in the policy.

National

Cracking down on fake COVID-19 cures

COVID-19 opportunists are capitalizing on the fear of Canadians by offering a variety of products to prevent, diagnose or treat the disease, such as unapproved masks or testing kits and unproven vitamin or homeopathic treatments. In fact, Health Canada has not approved anything that will prevent, treat or cure COVID-19, although several trials are underway, the [Canadian Science Policy Centre reports](#). Regulators are working hard to keep harmful products off the market, but are they doing enough?

Canadians are accidentally poisoning themselves while cleaning to prevent COVID-19

From burning eyes and trouble breathing to children drinking hand sanitizer, there's been a jump in the number of cleaner- and disinfectant-related accidental poisonings since the COVID-19 pandemic began, as Canadians try to keep themselves and their homes virus-free, [CBC reports](#). According to Health Canada, February and March combined showed a 58% increase from the same period a year earlier in reported exposures related to cleaning products, bleaches, disinfectants, hand sanitizers, and chlorine and chloramine gases. Poisonings involving bleach are most common, making up 38% of all calls to poison centres in

March.

New Wellness Together Canada portal supports mental health

Mental Health Week takes place this week, May 4-10, 2020. With the additional strain COVID-19 is putting on individuals, professionals and families across the country, concerns around physical and mental well-being have increased significantly. The [Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support portal](#) is a free resource for all Canadians featuring a range of resources including tools, apps and connections to mental health professionals. Specific modules address low mood, worry, substance use, social isolation and relationship issues. The portal is also available through the [COVID-19 App](#), which is free and available at [Canada.ca/coronavirus](#) and through the App Store and Google Play.

International

Pandemic preparedness: Optimizing the pharmacy network

Early learnings from the COVID-19 pandemic point to a need to provide guidance to health systems on how best to use pharmacies as a vital part of the support network, in particular the medication and protective equipment supply chain, says the World Pharmacy Council in a new paper called [Pandemic Preparedness: Optimising Use of the Pharmacy Network](#). As the COVID-19 pandemic has progressed, there has been widespread but belated recognition of the vital role in the delivery of health care services that pharmacies play.

Sexual and reproductive health: FIP collaboration with the World Health Organization

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a strain on health systems in many countries, with an adverse effect on routine sexual and reproductive health care. As a result, many people are turning to self-care, with particular reliance on pharmacies and digital health (e.g., telemedicine). Last year World Health Organization (WHO) released a [consolidated guideline on self-care interventions for sexual and reproductive health and rights](#) (SRHR), which included recommendations related to the supply (and OTC availability) of contraception, medical abortion, fertility monitoring, and self-sampling for STI and HPV testing. The role of pharmacists in overseeing and supporting self-care is clear and well-articulated in the guidelines. In light of the pandemic, the WHO is accelerating work on implementing and expanding these guidelines to ensure the uptake of self-care interventions. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and WHO are now discussing a collaboration around short briefs articulating pharmacy-relevant recommendations from the guidelines (for example, that oral contraception pills can be made available OTC), which include the evidence behind the recommendation and relevance for pharmacy workers on the front lines.

FDA issues emergency authorization for COVID-19 antibody test

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorization for a coronavirus antibody test from Roche, a move that could add significant capacity to efforts to determine the wider spread of COVID-19, [the Wall Street Journal](#) (subscriber access only) notes. The Roche test is designed to tell people whether they have been infected in the past. Antibody tests are seen by many governments as key to better understanding the spread of mild and asymptomatic cases, although so far most commercially available tests are not deemed accurate enough.

India permits paracetamol exports

India's Department of Pharmaceuticals has permitted export of 2000 metric tons of the active pharmaceutical ingredient for paracetamol, also known as acetaminophen, from six major bulk drug manufacturers, [PharmaBiz reports](#). Paracetamol, a fever medication, has been the most sought-after and widely used drug since the COVID-19 outbreak. Last month, Johnson & Johnson, which sells Tylenol, its brand name for acetaminophen, reported a "temporary" shortage due to record high demand.

Newsworthy

When pandemic measures began Sameer Remtulla, owner and pharmacist at Pharmasave Uxbridge Medical Pharmacy in Ontario, immediately started [looking for ways to help](#). At the beginning that included putting his compounding skills to use to make hand sanitizer, which was distributed free of charge to local businesses to ensure they could remain open safely. "We're really grateful to be able to serve and give back to the community at this difficult time," said Remtulla, who then offered up his

store to help collect donations for the Uxbridge Loaves and Fishes Food Bank.

Worth Repeating

"This is, I believe, the end of our beginning of this pandemic. We do not yet know what's going to happen, but we know that we have some room to increase our social connections, work, school, daycare, child care..." — Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC provincial health officer, says the province is beginning to reach a stage where regular interactions between people will eventually be able to double from their current point, while still containing the coronavirus.

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.