COVID-19 Comprehensive Global Pharmacist Support Document

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- Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources
- healthdirect Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker

Canada
- Government of Canada
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - Temporary measures: Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP)
- COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool

United States
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- How to Protect Yourself & Others
- CDC Self-Checker
- People who need to take extra precautions
- Mayo Clinic
- COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool
- Medicaid Resources
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Isolation Conditions and Mental Health

Australia
- COVID-19 Support | Head to Health
- COVID-19 National Health Plan – Supporting the mental health of Australians through the Coronavirus pandemic

Canada
- Government of Canada connects Canadians with mental wellness supports during COVID-19
- Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support

United States
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Daily Life and Coping
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- First Responders and Disaster Responders Resource Portal

World Health Organization
- #HealthyAtHome

Other Potentially Relevant International Documents

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)
- FIP
- FIP Covid-19 Information Hub
- FIP Health Advisory COVID-19: Clinical Information and Treatment Guidelines
- FIP Health Advisory COVID-19: Guidelines for Pharmacists and the Pharmacy Workforce

United Kingdom
COVID-19 Comprehensive Global Pharmacist Support Document

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do - GOV.UK
- Coronavirus guidance for clinicians and NHS managers

United States Pharmacopeia (USP)
- COVID-19: Addressing the Global Health Crisis

World Health Organization (WHO)
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Introduction

From the first news of a novel coronavirus being discovered, to the official classification of a global pandemic due to COVID-19, information regarding temporary and emergency protocols, proposed guidelines as well as public safety recommendations, to name a few, have continually been updated and revised as more information regarding the virus is discovered. Health care providers, such as pharmacists, search for credible sources of information to not only educate themselves on this pandemic but on how to advise and care for their patients as well. In an effort to help consolidate the most up-to-date regulatory and professional organizational guidelines and policies, this document was created to serve the health care community as a resource for providing such information. Some of the major topics of concern have been included in this document and are subcategorized by the countries of Australia, Canada and the United States as well as other potentially relevant international documents.

Hand Sanitizer Formulas

United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

The USP Compounding Expert Committee (CMP EC) provides the following recommendations for compounding alcohol-based hand sanitizers for use during shortages associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the public health emergency posed by COVID-19, this document was developed without a public comment period. This document is not a USP compendial standard; rather, it reflects considerations developed by the USP CMP EC, based on their scientific and professional expertise, and with input from regulatory agencies at the federal and state level. If implementing the provisions in this document, the expectation is that compounders follow USP General Chapter <795> Pharmaceutical Compounding – Nonsterile Preparations, including the following:

1. Personnel trained in the compounding procedures

2. USP, NF or Food Chemicals Codex (FCC) grade ingredients should be used as the recommended source of ingredients
   a. When components meeting compendial quality standards are not obtainable, components of equivalent quality – such as those that are chemically pure, analytical reagent grade or American Chemical Society-certified – may be used.

3. All equipment to be clean, properly maintained, and used appropriately

4. A Master Formulation Record and Compounding Record to be prepared

5. A Beyond-Use Date to be assigned

6. The preparation to be appropriately labeled
   a. Label to note the final concentration of ethanol or isopropyl alcohol

▶ USP Compounding Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer During COVID-19 Pandemic
World Health Organization (WHO):

The World Health Organization has developed two alcohol based handrub formulations and base their recommendation on the following factors:

1. Evidence-based, intrinsic advantages of fast-acting and broad-spectrum microbicidal activity with a minimal risk of generating resistance to antimicrobial agents;

2. Suitability for use in resource-limited or remote areas with lack of accessibility to sinks or other facilities for hand hygiene (including clean water, towels, etc.)

3. Capacity to promote improved compliance with hand hygiene by making the process faster, more convenient and immediately accessible at the point of patient care;

4. Economic benefit by reducing annual costs for hand hygiene, representing approximately 1% of extra-costs generated by health care-associated infection

5. Minimization of risks from adverse events because of increased safety associated with better acceptability and tolerance than other products.

Guide to Local Production: WHO-recommended Handrub Formulations
Australia

On 28 March 2020, specified hand sanitiser formulations were excluded from TGA regulation, as long as they only contain particular ingredients in particular quantities in the final formulation, and comply with certain manufacturing practices, and advertisement and labelling conditions. Provided that the exact formulation and other requirements are followed, this formulation is permitted for use in both healthcare facilities and consumer use. This exclusion will facilitate the urgent and continued supply of large volumes of hand sanitisers in Australia.

The formulations are based on advice by the World Health Organization and similar decisions by the US Food and Drug Administration. The final formulation of the hand sanitiser must contain only the following ingredients:

- EITHER ethanol 80% v/v (pharmacopoeial grade or food standard grade) OR isopropyl alcohol 75% v/v (pharmacopoeial grade) in an aqueous solution;
- sterile distilled water or boiled cold water;
- glycerol 1.45% v/v (pharmacopoeial grade);
- hydrogen peroxide 0.125% v/v (pharmacopoeial grade); and
- does not contain any other active or inactive ingredients, including colours, fragrances or emollients.

There are strict requirements for labelling of these products. Manufacturers must also test the alcohol concentrations of each batch, manufacture under sanitary conditions and maintain production record-keeping. The legislation enabling production of these sanitisers is the *Therapeutic Goods (Excluded Goods - Hand Sanitisers) Determination 2020*.

The products will continue to be regulated as consumer goods under Australian Consumer Law. Manufacture of this product is not considered compounding.

For further information, contact otc.medicines@health.gov.au or telephone 1800 020 653.

▶ TGA Hand Sanitizers and COVID-19
▶ Alcohol Antiseptic 80% Topical Solution
▶ Isopropyl Alcohol Antiseptic 75% Topical Solution
Canada

Health Canada is permitting licensed pharmacists to compound and sell hand sanitizers in their province/territory of practice. Health Canada recommends that pharmacists follow a reputable formula, such as the one published by the WHO.

Should a pharmacist wish to distribute their product for resale by a third party, they would be required to obtain a valid site and product license through the process listed here.

- Health Canada Hard Surface Disinfectants and Hand Sanitizers (COVID-19)
- Alcohol Antiseptic 80% Topical Solution
- Isopropyl Alcohol Antiseptic 75% Topical Solution

United States

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA plays a critical role in protecting the United States from emerging infectious diseases, such as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. FDA is committed to providing timely guidance to support continuity and response efforts to this pandemic.

As part of these efforts, FDA published three guidances to help meet the increased demand for hand sanitizers during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, entities that are not currently registered drug manufacturers can register as over-the-counter (OTC) drug manufacturers and make alcohol-based hand sanitizers, pharmacies and registered outsourcing facilities can compound certain alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and alcohol production firms can produce alcohol for making hand sanitizers provided they follow the conditions outlined in the FDA guidances for industry.

FDA Hand Sanitizers COVID-19

- Temporary Policy for Preparation of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)
- Policy for Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency
- Temporary Policy for Manufacture of Alcohol for Incorporation Into Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency (COVID-19)
- Alcohol Antiseptic 80% Topical Solution
- Isopropyl Alcohol Antiseptic 75% Topical Solution
Emergency and Temporary Regulation Updates

Australia

Australian Government Department of Health

► Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for the health and aged care sector

The Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (the COVID-19 Plan) guides the Australian health sector response.

► Australian Health Sector Emergency Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

Updates on our regulation of practitioners during COVID-19 and other important information affecting registered practitioners can be found below.

► All Profession Information

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Pharmacy Board of Australia

COVID-19 is posing unprecedented challenges to the health system and wider community in Australia. Meeting these challenges requires an unwavering commitment across the health sector to shared goals, new levels of collaboration and flexibility.

In this, all health sector agencies have both responsibilities and accountabilities. As regulators, the Pharmacy Board of Australia and Ahpra must balance public safety with the need to enable governments, hospitals and practitioners providing front-line care to sick and vulnerable patients to do what is needed to respond to COVID-19.

Public safety remains the primary focus of the Pharmacy Board of Australia. However, a national emergency requires pharmacists to meet extreme challenges, which Australia’s regulatory approach must accommodate.

While maintaining standards to keep the public safe, we are introducing new policies that will get more front-line practitioners into the health system, increase employer flexibility and cut red tape. The changes reflect the Board’s existing policy and standards framework and recognise the unprecedented new environment in which pharmacists are now practising as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board has agreed to the following measures. We are closely monitoring the situation and may make further changes as needed.

▶ Pharmacy Boards Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic
Canada

Health Canada

Pursuant to subsection 56(1) of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA), and subject to the terms and conditions herein, practitioners and pharmacists, authorized within their scope of practice, are hereby exempted from the following provisions of the CDSA and its regulations when prescribing, selling, or providing a controlled substance to a patient or transferring a prescription for a controlled substance to a pharmacist in Canada:

▶ Subsection 56(1) class exemption for patients, practitioners and pharmacists prescribing and providing controlled substances in Canada during the coronavirus pandemic

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), in collaboration with Canadian public health experts has developed this guidance for federal/provincial/territorial (F/P/T) public health authorities (PHA) to support the management of cases and contacts of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) within their jurisdictions.

The strategy outlined in this guidance is intended to focus on case and contact management, in order to mitigate the health impacts of COVID-19 on Canadians. This guidance is based on the Canadian context and public health assumptions that reflect the currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion. The timing and intensity of virus activity has varied across Canada and within provinces and territories, i.e., some regions have had many cases and are experiencing local community transmission, while others continue to have isolated cases with limited person to person transmission. Consequently, the focus and intensity of public health actions may vary among jurisdictions as they each manage the situation they are experiencing at a given time. This guidance is subject to change as new information on transmissibility and epidemiology becomes available. It should be read in conjunction with relevant P/T and local legislation, regulations and policies. For information regarding COVID-19, refer to outbreak updates.

▶ Public health management of cases and contacts associated with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)
College of Pharmacy COVID-19 Information

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The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC)

PEBC is the national certification body for the profession of pharmacy in Canada. This website is the official source for information regarding the PEBC certification process for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians. Please be aware that PEBC does not endorse any information regarding the certification process found elsewhere. This is the only source of reliable information for you as you work to achieve your goal of becoming certified by PEBC.

[The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada](https://www.pebca.org/)

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United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

This guidance applies to all pharmacy staff to minimize their risk of exposure to the virus and reduce the risk for customers during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a vital part of the healthcare system, pharmacies play an important role in providing medicines, therapeutics, vaccines, and critical health services to the public. Ensuring continuous function of pharmacies during the COVID-19 pandemic is important. During the pandemic, pharmacy staff can minimize their risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 and reduce the risk for customers by using the principles of infection prevention and control and social distancing.

▶ Guidance for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians in Community Pharmacies during the COVID-19 Response

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

The mission of Drug Enforcement Administrations (DEA), Diversion Control Division is to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion of controlled pharmaceuticals and listed chemicals from legitimate sources while ensuring an adequate and uninterrupted supply for legitimate medical, commercial, and scientific needs.

During this National Emergency the Diversion Control Division is working with our Federal partners including ASPR, FEMA, HHS, FDA, ONDCP, SAMSHA, and members of the White House Task Force; DEA registrants; and representatives of the medical and health-care associations to assure that there is an adequate supply of controlled substances in the United States. The DEA will also work to assure that patients will have access to necessary drug products containing controlled substances.

▶ DEA COVID-19 Information

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

FDA is working to provide guidance to states and compounders on issues associated with compounding drugs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency’s guidance aims to protect patients from unsafe, ineffective and poor-quality compounded drugs, while preserving access for patients

▶ Compounding Activities COVID-19

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or the Agency) plays a critical role in protecting the United States from threats such as emerging infectious diseases, including the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. FDA is committed to providing timely guidance to support response efforts to this pandemic.

FDA is issuing this guidance to communicate its temporary policy for the compounding of certain human drug products for hospitalized patients by outsourcing facilities that have registered with FDA under section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) (21 U.S.C. 353b).
Temporary Policy for Compounding of Certain Drugs for Hospitalized Patients by Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

FDA is issuing this guidance to communicate its temporary policy for the compounding of certain human drug products for hospitalized patients by State-licensed pharmacies and Federal facilities, including hospital and health system pharmacies, that are not registered with FDA as outsourcing facilities (referred to collectively in this guidance as “pharmacies”) for the duration of the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 31, 2020, or for such shorter time as FDA may announce through updated guidance.

Temporary Policy for Compounding of Certain Drugs for Hospitalized Patients by Pharmacy Compounders not Registered as Outsourcing Facilities During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

NABP is closely monitoring the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19) on our exams, scheduled surveys and inspections, and the Annual Meeting.

View NABP Program Updates

A list of emergency and temporary safety orders, policies, and board statements by state can be viewed here or on the boards of pharmacy page.

NABP Coronavirus Updates

NABP Passport is a temporary authorization that facilitates pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, interns, and pharmacy businesses practicing in another state. The program was developed in response to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and it allows states to efficiently grant temporary or emergency licensure.

Temporary or Emergency Licensure Facilitated by NABP Passport

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)

This guidance is not a standard or regulation, and it creates no new legal obligations. It contains recommendations as well as descriptions of mandatory safety and health standards. The recommendations are advisory in nature, informational in content, and are intended to assist employers in providing a safe and healthful workplace. The Occupational Safety and Health Act requires employers to comply with safety and health standards and regulations promulgated by OSHA or by a state with an OSHA-approved state plan. In addition, the Act’s General Duty Clause, Section 5(a) (1), requires employers to provide their employees with a workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm. Material contained in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced, fully or partially, without permission. Source credit is requested but not required.

Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19
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COVID-19 Proposed Protocols

Australia

Australian National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce

The Taskforce brings together the peak health professional bodies across Australia whose members are providing clinical care to people with COVID-19.

We are undertaking continuous evidence surveillance to identify and rapidly synthesise emerging research in order to provide national, evidence-based guidelines for the clinical care of people with COVID-19. The guidelines address questions that are specific to managing COVID-19 and cover the full disease course across mild, moderate, severe and critical illness.

These are ‘living’ guidelines, updated with new research in near real-time in order to give reliable, up-to-the minute advice to clinicians providing frontline care in this unprecedented global health crisis.

Australia is a world-leader in the development of living guidelines through the work of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium and in partnership with Cochrane, the world’s most trusted provider of health evidence. This considerable expertise has now been deployed to ensure every Australian clinician has access to a single source of trustworthy advice about critical aspects of COVID-19 care.

▶ Caring for people with COVID-19

The treatment of novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a rapidly expanding area of research, with an unprecedented global effort underway to combat this disease. As a result, recommendations based on current evidence are likely to become outdated quickly as new primary studies are published. The living evidence approach facilitates rapid updating of recommendations. By frequently incorporating the most up-to-date evidence, these methods ensure that the currency of each recommendation remains high.

It is anticipated that these living recommendations will be updated weekly as and when new evidence is available. This will be reflected in the publication of a new version in which changes made to a specific recommendation or supporting information are highlighted in order to emphasise the update.

▶ Australian guidelines for the clinical care of people with COVID-19
Canada

Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA)

CPhA's newest chapter, COVID-19, provides information for primary care practitioners on management of common symptoms such as fever, cough and headache as well as a summary of experimental treatments being used in acute-care settings. This content will be updated regularly as new evidence becomes available.

▶ COVID-19 Chapter

▶ CPhA COVID-19 Information and Resources

Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

In an effort to share information and best hospital pharmacy practices regarding COVID-19, the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists has set-up a special open access (free to members and non-members) Pharmacy Specialty Network (PSN).

Register now to join the COVID-19 PSN here: ▶ https://qid.io/COVID19PSN/home

Already registered for QID? Access the COVID-19 PSN here: ▶ https://qid.io/COVID19PSN#/
United States

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP)

The information contained in this evidence table is emerging and rapidly evolving because of ongoing research and is subject to the professional judgment and interpretation of the practitioner due to the uniqueness of each medical facility’s approach to the care of patients with COVID-19 and the needs of individual patients. ASHP provides this evidence table to help practitioners better understand current approaches related to treatment and care. ASHP has made reasonable efforts to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information presented. However, any reader of this information is advised ASHP is not responsible for the continued currency of the information, for any errors or omissions, and/or for any consequences arising from the use of the information in the evidence table in any and all practice settings. Any reader of this document is cautioned that ASHP makes no representation, guarantee, or warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy and appropriateness of the information contained in this evidence table and will bear no responsibility or liability for the results or consequences of its use. Public access to AHFS Drug Information® (https://www.ahfscdi.com/login) is available for the next 60 days (Open Access for 60 Days Effective March 16, 2020) with the username “ahfs@ashp.org” and password “covid-19.” ASHP’s patient medication information is available at http://www.safemedication.com/.

▶ ASHP Assessment of Evidence for COVID-19 Related Treatments

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

This interim guidance is for clinicians caring for patients with confirmed infection with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). CDC will update this interim guidance as more information becomes available.

▶ Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

▶ Clinical Care Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

ClinicalTrials.gov

ClinicalTrials.gov is a database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies conducted around the world. ClinicalTrials.gov is a resource provided by the U.S. National Library of Medicine.

IMPORTANT: Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Read our disclaimer for details.

Before participating in a study, talk to your health care provider and learn about the risks and potential benefits.

▶ Listed Studies Related to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
National Institute of Health (NIH)

These Treatment Guidelines have been developed to inform clinicians how to care for patients with COVID-19. Because clinical information about the optimal management of COVID-19 is evolving quickly, these Guidelines will be updated frequently as published data and other authoritative information becomes available.

The recommendations in these Guidelines are based on scientific evidence and expert opinion. Each recommendation includes two ratings: a letter (A, B, or C) that indicates the strength of the recommendation and a Roman numeral (I, II, or III) that indicates the quality of the evidence that supports the recommendation (see Table 1)

▶ NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines

World Health Organization (WHO)

This interim guidance is intended for clinicians involved in the care of adult, pregnant, and paediatric patients with or at risk for severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when infection with the COVID-19 virus is suspected. Considerations for paediatric patients and pregnant women are highlighted throughout the text. It is not meant to replace clinical judgment or specialist consultation but rather to strengthen clinical management of these patients and to provide up-to-date guidance. Best practices for infection prevention and control (IPC), triage and optimized supportive care are included

▶ Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected
Critical Personal Protective Equipment

Australia

Australian Government Department Health: Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA)

In response to COVID-19, there is increasing interest in understanding the regulation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that might be used for therapeutic purposes including face masks, gowns and gloves. The following guidance is designed to provide:

- An overview of how these products are regulated
- Information for manufacturers of PPE to help meet regulatory obligations
- Information about including a medical device on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)
- Information for consumers of PPE, including healthcare professionals.

► Regulation of Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare

The overall aim of infection control measures is to minimise the risk of exposure to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19); reducing transmission, infections and illness.

Effective infection control is best achieved by applying a combination of:

- Individual measures;
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE); and
- Organisational and environmental measures.

Infection control measures are essential in healthcare settings. It is also helpful to encourage individuals within the community to use certain measures to reduce their risk of exposure, or to reduce the likelihood of those with the disease transmitting it to others.

► COVID-19
Canada

Canadian Pharmacists Association

CPhA has developed suggested best practices on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for pharmacy staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The suggestions contained in this document are not legal advice and may not cover all aspects pertaining the use of PPE by pharmacy staff. Before following any course of action, pharmacy staff should always refer first to their local, provincial and national public health authorities, their provincial regulatory authority and any corporate policies for up-to-date and specific guidance on use of PPE. Such guidance will always supersede the recommendations in this document.

▶ PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE): Suggested Best Practices for Pharmacies During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Health Canada

Personal protective equipment consists of gowns, gloves, masks, facial protection (i.e., masks and eye protection, face shields or masks with visor attachment) or respirators that can be used to provide a barrier to help prevent potential exposure to infectious disease.

Personal protective equipment, including devices such as N95 respirators, gowns, masks, gloves & face shields, are medical devices in Canada and are subject to requirements under the Medical Devices Regulations.

▶ Personal protective equipment against COVID-19
United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC’s optimization strategies for PPE offer options for use when PPE supplies are stressed, running low, or absent. Contingency strategies can help stretch PPE supplies when shortages are anticipated, for example if facilities have sufficient supplies now but are likely to run out soon. Crisis strategies can be considered during severe PPE shortages and should be used with the contingency options to help stretch available supplies for the most critical needs. As PPE availability returns to normal, healthcare facilities should promptly resume standard practices.

▶ Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, FDA has received a number of queries from compounders related to the impact of supply interruptions of face masks, gowns, gloves, and other garb, which we refer to collectively in this document as personal protective equipment (PPE).

FDA is issuing this guidance to communicate its temporary policy related to PPE use during human drug compounding, at State-licensed pharmacies or Federal facilities that are not registered with FDA as outsourcing facilities (referred to collectively in this guidance as compounders). This policy is intended to remain in effect only for the duration of the public health emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), including any renewals made by the HHS Secretary in accordance with section 319(A)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(a)(2)).

▶ Temporary Policy Regarding Non-Standard PPE Practices for Sterile Compounding by Pharmacy Compounders not Registered as Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

This document is for informational purposes only and is intended to address the garb and personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This does not reflect the Compounding Expert Committee’s opinions on future revisions to official text of the USP-NF. USP is actively monitoring the evolving situation and will update this document accordingly.

▶ USP Response to Shortages of Garb and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Sterile Compounding During COVID-19 Pandemic
Quarantine Support

Healthy Living and Patient Counseling Resources

Australia

Australian Government Department of Health

A collection of resources for the general public and industry about coronavirus (COVID-19).

▶ Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources

A collection of resources for the general public, health professionals and industry outlining a range of funding measures the Australian Government is taking to combat coronavirus (COVID-19).

▶ Coronavirus (COVID-19): National Health Plan resources

To find out if you meet the Australian Government guidelines for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, answer a series of questions. These include information about:

- your age and gender
- any emergency symptoms you may be experiencing
- your state or territory
- whether you’re a healthcare worker
- any recent foreign travel
- whether you’ve been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19

▶ healthdirect Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker
Canada

Government of Canada

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Canada implemented temporary changes to the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP), effective March 24, 2020. These changes were designed to help PSHCP members and eligible dependants access health care benefits while at the same time minimizing social interaction with health care professionals. The flexibilities outlined below will remain in effect until non-critical business is authorized to resume or as indicated otherwise.

Note: All other PSHCP provisions and coverage for members and eligible dependants remain the same during the COVID-19 pandemic. For additional information, consult the Public Service Health Care Plan page on Canada.ca/pension-benefits.

▶ Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - Temporary measures: Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP)
▶ COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool

United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
  - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
  - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

▶ How to Protect Yourself & Others
▶ CDC Self-Checker
▶ People who need to take extra precautions
Mayo Clinic

This tool will help you assess your symptoms and determine if you’re a candidate for a coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) test. It also offers guidance on when to seek medical care and what to do in the meantime. This information is based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and Mayo Clinic expert opinion.

Information applies only to people currently in the United States

▶ COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool

Medicaid Resources

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus named “Coronavirus Disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

On January 31, 2020, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. On March 13, 2020, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) outbreak. CMS took action to aggressively respond to this national emergency.

This is an ongoing situation and we will continue to make updates and provide resources.

▶ Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Isolation Conditions and Mental Health

Australia

Discussions and concerns around the coronavirus outbreak and practising self-isolation can be stressful and impact our mental health and wellbeing. It's natural to feel a range of emotions, such as stress, worry, anxiety, boredom, or low mood. Many people feel distressed by the constant news and overwhelming amount of information about the situation.

Head to Health is committed to providing Australians with trusted information and digital supports to help support everyone’s mental health and wellbeing during this pandemic. This page covers where to get the facts about the COVID-19 outbreak, tips for maintaining good mental health, information on how to access mental health services, information for parents, and how to keep older Australians safe and connected by helping them get established online.

▶ COVID-19 Support | Head to Health

A fact sheet about a package of measures to support the mental health and wellbeing of Australians as we face the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic.

▶ COVID-19 National Health Plan – Supporting the mental health of Australians through the Coronavirus pandemic

Canada

COVID-19 is a global public health challenge that has changed the daily lives of people around the world. During these difficult times, it is critical that Canadians be able to obtain credible information and access services to support their mental health and wellbeing.

That’s why, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, launched a new portal dedicated to mental wellness on Canada.ca/coronavirus and the Canada COVID-19 app. Wellness Together Canada will connect Canadians to peer support workers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals for confidential chat sessions or phone calls, and will make it easier to find credible information and help address mental health and substance use issues.

▶ Government of Canada connects Canadians with mental wellness supports during COVID-19

We recognize the significant strain that COVID-19 has placed on individuals and families across the country. Many people are concerned about their physical and mental well being. Canadians are being challenged in a number of ways because of isolation, financial and employment uncertainty and disruptions to daily life. Wellness Together Canada provides tools and resources to help get Canadians back on track. These include modules for addressing low mood, worry, substance use, social isolation and relationship issues.

▶ Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support
United States

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger.

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include

- Fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Worsening of mental health conditions
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

► Daily Life and Coping

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

First responders face an increased risk of experiencing behavioral health issues including mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Fear of being seen as weak or not up to the job of a first responder keeps many from seeking help. Responders can build their resilience by increasing awareness about risk factors and warning signs, talking with each other, and using healthy coping strategies.

For people experiencing emotional distress related to a disaster, SAMHSA offers toll-free crisis counseling and support through the Disaster Distress Hotline 1-800-985-5990.

► First Responders and Disaster Responders Resource Portal

World Health Organization

The COVID-19 pandemic means that many of us are staying at home and doing less in terms of social interactions and exercise. This can have a negative effect on your physical and mental health.

Below is advice to help you and your family to stay healthy at home during this period of confinement.

► #HealthyAtHome
Other Potentially Relevant International Documents

International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)

The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) is the global body representing over 4 million pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. We work to meet the world’s health care needs. FIP is a non-governmental organisation that has been in official relations with the World Health Organization since 1948.

▶ FIP
▶ FIP Covid-19 Information Hub

Since December 2019, an outbreak of a new human coronavirus has spread to many countries and caused thousands of cases and deaths. COVID-19 is the disease caused by the new virus SARS-CoV-2. Most people who are infected get mild respiratory symptoms that will disappear on their own, but some people develop more severe illness, like pneumonia. The virus is transmitted through contact with an infected person or via respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. There is a higher risk of infection if you have been in an area where the virus is spreading, or if you have been in close contact with a person infected with the new coronavirus. There is also a higher risk if you suffer from comorbidities already.

The purpose of this document is to provide relevant clinical information and treatment guidelines on the COVID-19 pandemic – for pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce, both in a primary care context (i.e. community pharmacies and primary healthcare facilities) and in hospital settings, as well as for pharmacists working as clinical biologists in medical analysis laboratories, for example, as clinical biologists, and offer a set of references that may be consulted for more information.

Coronavirus infections can be prevented and an outbreak can be stopped through the active engagement of decision-makers, healthcare professionals, the media and the community. This was demonstrated in previous coronavirus outbreaks such as in 2003 with SARS-CoV (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus) or in 2012 with MERS-CoV (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus). This document aims to assist pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce in preventing the spread of the disease and contributing to its efficient management in the healthcare system.

▶ FIP Health Advisory COVID-19: Clinical Information and Treatment Guidelines

The purpose of this document is to provide relevant information and guidelines on the COVID-19 pandemic for pharmacists and the pharmacy workforce, both in a primary care context (i.e. community pharmacies and primary healthcare facilities) and in hospital settings.

▶ FIP Health Advisory COVID-19: Guidelines for Pharmacists and the Pharmacy Workforce

To access the above documents in languages other than English please click HERE
United Kingdom

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): what you need to do - GOV.UK
- Coronavirus guidance for clinicians and NHS managers

United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

USP is playing a critical role in the public health response to COVID-19 disease, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. USP is helping to accelerate the work of scientists and manufacturers developing vaccines and treatments, supporting front line workers impacted by shortages of critical drugs and personal protection equipment and helping to build a more resilient global medicines supply chain.

- COVID-19: Addressing the Global Health Crisis

World Health Organization (WHO)

- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic
Compounding Support

Potential Drug Shortages

Australia

Australian Government Department of Health: Therapeutics Good Administration (TGA)

This webpage provides information about shortages of reportable medicines in Australia, including those arising from the discontinuation of products. Improved monitoring and communication will assist patients to be aware of a shortage and to obtain timely advice and support from a health professional. In some situations, they may be able to recommend alternative treatments.

► Medicine Shortages Information Initiative

Canada

Health Canada

Welcome to Drug Shortages Canada, the website for reporting drug shortages and discontinuations in Canada. The Food and Drug Regulations require drug sellers to report when they are not able to meet demand for a product or when they stop selling a product. Information about the website and the regulations can be found on the About & Resources Page.

A shortage means, in respect of a drug, a situation in which the manufacturer to whom a document was issued under subsection C.01.014.2(1) that sets out the drug identification number assigned for the drug is unable to meet the demand for the drug. Below are the newest and most recently updated Shortage and Discontinuation reports.

► Drug Shortages Canada
United States

American Society of Health System Pharmacists (ASHP)

Your first stop for information and resources on drug products, their availability, and management.

▶ ASHP Drug Shortages

Food and Drug Administration

During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, FDA has been closely monitoring the medical product supply chain with the expectation that it may be impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, potentially leading to supply disruptions or shortages of drug products in the U.S. FDA understands the significant impact that this can have on patient care and is doing everything within its authority to help prevent and alleviate shortages.

FDA continues to work closely with manufacturers to mitigate and prevent shortages as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Any shortages, including any related to COVID-19 will be posted on Drug Shortages webpage.

▶ Drug Shortages Response | COVID-19 | FDA

A drug receives Resolved status when the Drug Shortages Staff (DSS) determines that the market is covered, based on information from all manufacturers. The market is considered covered when supply is available from at least one manufacturer to cover total market demand. However, some manufacturers may not have all presentations available. DSS monitors the supply of products with Resolved status. For the most current supply information, contact the manufacturers.

▶ FDA Drug Shortages

MEDISCA Network Freely Accessible Formulas for Potential Drug Shortage

From antiseptic solutions, to critical care medications, to antipyretics, analgesics, sedatives, disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs, antimicrobials, and much more, MEDISCA Network has published over 100 formulas, to date (and growing), in support of potential shortages. Formulas are continually being developed to support potential shortages as indicated by the FDA, ASHP, Health Canada, and the TGA. All shortage support formulas are freely accessible on MEDISCA Network’s:

▶ Potential Shortage Support Page
MEDISCA Network Extended Beyond-Use Dating

Oral Formulas

This BUD Databank provides the results of MEDISCA Network stability-indicating studies, using MEDISCA’s line of dye-free oral vehicles. Through strategic partnerships with renowned institutions, we offer a wide variety of stability data tested in various dispensers and container closures, using both forms of APIs: pure powder and commercial drugs.

▶ Oral BUD Databank

Topical Formulas

Beyond Used Date (BUD) studies are an important investment for MEDISCA as they provide significant information on the durability and potency of compounded medications over time. In collaboration with various institutions in the US and Canada, MEDISCA is continuously developing a comprehensive database of stability studies using our topical bases. The databank below releases the results of some of our published studies.

▶ Topical BUD Databank
MEDISCA Bases and Vehicles

MEDISCA offers a diverse line of compounding bases to cover all of your patient’s unique needs. MEDISCA provides compounding pharmacies with popular bases such as Mediderm™, VersaPro™ Cream, VersaPro™ Gel, HRT Cream Base and many more. Based on the desired route of administration and the therapeutic intent, MEDISCA can provide the optimal delivery system for any given formulation. MEDISCA offers compounding bases in several different forms, including:

- Animal Treat Products
- Creams
- Gel Bases and Ointments
- Oral Vehicles
- Suppository Bases
- And More...

MEDISCA is committed to delivering new innovative pharmaceutical solutions to the compounding industry and regularly conduct tests and studies across multiple modalities, including accelerated stability, USP Microbial Challenge, Physical & Chemical Stability, Skin Penetration, and Skin Hydration.

▶ Pharmacy Compounding Bases available in Australia
▶ Pharmacy Compounding Bases available in Canada
▶ Pharmacy Compounding Bases available in the United States
MEDISCA Compounding Equipment and Devices

From a simple vial to sophisticated technology such as the Maz® mixer and Samix®, MEDISCA offers over 600 types of equipment and devices that meet the compounding needs of today’s pharmaceutical industry. MEDISCA’s extensive line of products will provide you with everything needed to stay ahead of the curve as a leader among compounding pharmacies.

MEDISCA provides compounding pharmacists with a full range of equipment and devices, such as:

- Applicators and Dispensers, including our complete line of MD® Dispensers.
- Balances, as well as balance printers, cables, adapters and a wide range of accessories.
- Capsule Machines, including everything from pill counters and tampers to full system packages.
- Cleanroom Products, providing you with air samplers, cleaning products, protective clothing and more.
- Hoods & Accessories, including base stands, HEPA filters, work surfaces and more.
- Mixing, Milling & Filling Products, including Samix, Topi-Click Filling Stations, and more.

MEDISCA also offers a wide range of Lab Supplies such as bottle adapters and empty IV bags, as well as a wide range of Molds, Crimpers & Sealers, Heating & Sterilizing Products and more!

▶ Pharmacy Compounding Equipment & Devices available in Australia
▶ Pharmacy Compounding Equipment & Devices available in Canada
▶ Pharmacy Compounding Equipment & Devices available in the United States
LP3 Network Educational Support

NEW Live Virtual Seminars

In support of the COVID-19 isolation measures, LP3 Network is bringing its live seminars to your home through live streaming solutions. This innovative learning experience allows you to attend seminars virtually and receive Continuing Pharmacy Education (CPE) credits (as you would if you were with us in person) from the comfort and safety of your home. In real time, you will connect with fellow peers and our facilitators (see them and speak with them), virtually through an online platform.

▶ Upcoming Live Virtual Seminars

▶ Essential Elements of Hazardous Drug Compounding | May 16-17, 2020

▶ NAPRA Standards (Non-sterile Compounding): LP3 Network’s Comprehensive Approach to Achieving Compliance | May 30, 2020

▶ Essential Elements of Personalized Analgesic Medications | June 6-7, 2020

▶ Staying Current and Compliant with Regulations and Standards in Your Compounding Practice | July 11, 2020

▶ Veterinary Compounding: A Customized Approach | July 18-19, 2020

▶ Personalized Dermatology: Clinical & Cosmetic Care | July 25-26, 2020

COVID-19 Webinar

As the impact of COVID-19 on pharmacies became significant, LP3 Network’s team quickly ramped up efforts to develop a webinar addressing the latest empirical evidence on COVID-19 transmission and management, with special focus on the compounding pharmacist’s role in mitigating risk, addressing shortages, and achieving therapeutic needs. The webinar aired live on March 26, 2020 and the recording can be found online and is freely accessible to all:

▶ COVID-19: The Pharmacist’s Role in Mitigating Risk, Addressing Shortages, and Attending to Therapeutic Needs

Online Education Subscription Plan

While isolation measures continue, you can also take advantage of LP3 Network’s online subscription plan featuring over 35 webinars and eLearning programs covering the latest hot topics (cannabis-based therapy, opioid use), niche markets (hormones, dermatology, vet, pediatrics, nutraceuticals), regulatory updates, pharmaceutical calculations and procedures, among more. Benefit from education that you can take from the comfort and safety of you home.

▶ LP3 Network’s Online Education Subscription Plan
About MEDISCA Network

MEDISCA Network’s vision is to raise the standards of pharmacy practice by offering quality technical services such as formulas, business development marketing and facility design, all while fostering proactive networking between the practices of pharmacy and medicine. It is important that we always keep focus on our foremost objective, improving patient care.

As a service provider imparting MEDISCA Network’s specialized knowledge and expertise, MEDISCA Network brings people and resources together. MEDISCA Network provides the means for improving the quality of pharmaceutical care through meaningful relationships:

- Supporting cutting-edge formulas, research and development, and technical support services for the compounding pharmacist;
- Developing a knowledge-based communications network for the pharmacist and medical specialist;
- Engaging in business practices that lead to the morally, ethically, legally, politically and clinically sound development of pharmaceutical compounding;
- Providing both resources and consultation to secure the development of our membership’s business and marketing investments.

MEDISCA Network: Technical Services

MEDISCA Network is dedicated to providing cutting-edge Technical Services and resources that include Technical Support Services, encompassing an online formula database, formula design & customization and a customer service helpline, Specialized Consultation Services, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

In response to Covid-19, MEDISCA Network is focused on keeping current with shortages across major markets and in turn providing the pharmacy community with formulations that may serve in times of commercial shortages. In addition, specific SOPs, as part of MEDISCA Network’s comprehensive SOP package, have been adapted in consequence of Covid-19.

MEDISCA Network #HERETOHELP

Over the last few weeks, MEDISCA, MEDISCA Network, and LP3 Network have been witnessing along with you, the widespread effect and unprecedented upheaval COVID-19 has had both personally on our lives and on our industry. The #HERETOHELP campaign is dedicated to utilizing our collective resources to provide compounding pharmacists on the frontlines with the practical support they require to navigate through this challenging time. Everything from potential drug shortage formulation support from MEDISCA Network, COVID-19 education programs and online education solutions from LP3 Network, chemical and product supplies from MEDISCA, and weekly informational publications from legislators, innovators, and medical professionals.

#HERETOHELP: A COVID-19 RESPONSE