

Saskatchewan Pharmacists are committed to Supporting Public Health as COVID-19 Pandemic Spreads Globally

March 13, 2020

The Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) and its 1,300+ members are joining Saskatchewan Health and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) in their efforts to prepare citizens for the arrival of COVID-19 in our province.

“We are committed to doing our part to support the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and help the Province achieve its objectives of detecting cases as early as possible and delaying the spread as long as possible,” said Dawn Martin, CEO, PAS. “With more than 400 community pharmacies across the Province, our members are an accessible, initial point of contact and support for community members.”

Pharmacists can provide fact-based public health education and guidance, and also help.

The COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly unfolding, and new updates are posted regularly on the Saskatchewan Health [COVID-19 website page](#). There is [one confirmed case in Saskatchewan](#), and the Province advises individuals who believe they may have been exposed, either through travel or exposure to an individual with the virus, to self-isolate and/or self-monitor for at least two weeks.

Your local pharmacist can respond to your specific inquiries, and help identify, report, and manage potential cases of COVID-19. These general recommendations from the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) will help cover questions relating to drugs and medications:

- Keep common non-prescription medications for cold, fever and allergies on hand.
- People who require medication regularly should also ensure their prescriptions are up to date.
- Do not stockpile medications in large quantities, as it is unnecessary and could trigger drug shortages, particularly since pharmacists manage their medication inventories carefully to meet patients’ needs. Stockpiling may also put the health of family, friends, and your community at risk.

- If you have any concerns about your medications or if you are sick at home and in need of your medications, call your pharmacist. Many pharmacies offer a delivery service to help patients get their medications when they can't leave their homes.

There is currently no vaccine or drug treatment for COVID-19, although the [Province has invested \\$200,000](#) to the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac) at the University of Saskatchewan toward the search for a vaccine.

All of us have a role to play in limiting the impact of COVID-19 by educating ourselves in preventive measures and observing the following to the extent possible:

- Avoid non-essential travel, particularly to places currently listed on [Canada's Travel Health and Safety](#) website.
- Wash your hands often. Use [the technique](#) recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), and use sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Maintain social distancing (no handshakes, hugs, kisses), and if you are 65 and over or if you have an underlying medical condition, reconsider attending mass gatherings or unnecessary travel, as outlined in Saskatchewan Health's [COVID-19 Guidance on Mass Gatherings](#).

The Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan remains committed to collaborating with Saskatchewan Health, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals, the CPhA, and Health Canada to ensure that provincial pharmacists have resources and guidance that help us respond effectively to the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information

These websites are maintained by Health Canada and Saskatchewan Health for public information and are updated as warranted:

[Saskatchewan Health COVID-19 Website](#)

[Saskatchewan Health Authority Resources – COVID-19](#)

[Canada Health COVID-19 Website](#)

[Travel Advisories – Government of Canada](#)

[Myth-Busters about COVID-19 from the WHO](#)

For more information:

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