

IVERMECTIN FOR THE TREATMENT OF COVID-19 FAQs

There have been increasing reports and misleading claims through social media and other mediums (including signage off Manitoba highways) regarding the purported use of the veterinary antiparasitic agent ivermectin in treating COVID-19. Similar to claims surrounding the use of certain antimalarial, antibiotic, and antiviral therapies to treat COVID-19 earlier in the pandemic, this FAQ was developed to answer concerns raised.

What should I do if a patient asks me for ivermectin?

Ivermectin is an antiparasitic agent primarily used in veterinary medicine to deworm livestock and is not to be used to prevent or treat COVID-19 in humans. Treatment provided to patients, for any reason, must be evidence-informed and in the best interest of patients and public safety.

The College of Pharmacists of Manitoba has issued [this advisory](#) to its members.

CPSM reminds its members that:

- Section 6 in the [Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#) states explicitly that you must “...recommend evidence-informed treatment options...”.
- Prescribers must demonstrate the provisions defining good medical care as outlined in section 3 of the [CPSM Standard of Practice Regulation](#).

CPSM recognizes the ongoing challenges members face battling misinformation and your efforts in sustaining patient safety are appreciated.

Can I prescribe ivermectin to my patients?

Ivermectin is NOT authorized for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Health Canada has issued an advisory against using the veterinary or human drug formulations of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. [Read the Health Canada advisory here.](#)

Why can't I use the human formulation of ivermectin to treat my patients?

Ivermectin is not to be used for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Health Canada is clear that there is no evidence that ivermectin in either formulation is safe or effective for treating COVID-19.

The human version of ivermectin is authorized for sale in Canada **only to treat strongyloidiasis** (parasitic worm infections) in people.

What are the dangers of ivermectin for human use?

The veterinary version of ivermectin, especially at high doses, can be dangerous for humans and may cause serious health problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, allergic reactions, dizziness, seizures, coma and even death. Ivermectin products for animals have a higher concentrated dose than ivermectin products for people.

There have been multiple reports of patients in the U.S. being hospitalized after using ivermectin intended for livestock.

Is ivermectin being tested for COVID-19?

CPSM is closely monitoring guidance from Health Canada regarding treatments for COVID-19. If new information about ivermectin or any other treatment for COVID-19 becomes available, we will communicate pertinent information to CPSM members.

For information on vaccines and treatments authorized for use in Canada, visit [Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

Additional Resources

Manitobans expect that their healthcare providers and team members, comprised of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists, continue to work together to ensure that all health information provided, including all prescribing and dispensing practices, are current, evidence-based, and in the best interest of the patient and public safety.

The following resources may be helpful to all practitioners in conversations with the public:

- [Can existing drugs, like ivermectin, help prevent or treat COVID-19?](#) - Doctors Manitoba
- [Ivermectin for preventing and treating COVID-19](#) – Cochrane Library
- [Drug treatments for covid-19: living systematic review and network meta-analysis](#) – British Medical Journal
- [Ivermectin in the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19](#) - COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group, Rapid Evidence Report, Alberta Health Services
- [Misleading clinical evidence and systematic reviews on ivermectin for COVID-19](#) - British Medical Journal
- [The British Columbia COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee - guidance on the most current research on the use of therapies in the management of COVID-19](#) – BC Centre for Disease Control
- [Why you should not use ivermectin to treat or prevent Covid-19](#) - USA Food & Drug Administration