



Unsupported Claims for the Use of Ivermectin in the Prevention or Treatment of COVID-19

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Over the last several months, there have been increasing reports and misleading claims circulating in the community and online regarding the purported use of the veterinary antiparasitic agent ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19, similar to previous claims surrounding the anti-malarial, antibiotic and antiviral therapies to treat COVID-19 earlier in the pandemic.

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

Ivermectin is an essential medication approved by Health Canada for human use **only in the treatment of strongyloidiasis** (parasitic worm infections). However, ivermectin is primarily used in veterinary medicine for deworming of livestock.

The College would like to remind RN(NP)s of their responsibilities to their patients and the public, to meet the [Practice Expectations of RNs](#) and [RN\(NP\)s](#) and the [Code of Ethics](#)

The College recognizes and appreciates the extraordinary efforts of all RNs, RN(AP)s, and RN(NP)s in upholding patient safety and battling misinformation as the pandemic continues.

What are the dangers of ivermectin for human use?

There is no evidence that either formulation of ivermectin (human or veterinary versions) is safe or effective when used for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. In fact, the veterinary drug version of ivermectin, especially at high doses, can be dangerous to humans and may cause serious health problems. There have been multiple reports of patients in the United States being hospitalized after using ivermectin intended for livestock, and some feed stores across Canada are reporting increased sales of the drug.

In response to this, [Health Canada issued an advisory notice](#) on August 31, 2021, to the public and all healthcare professionals outlining the potential serious health dangers posed.

Additional Resources

Manitobans have an expectation that their healthcare providers and team members, comprised of nurses (including RNs and RN(NP)s), physicians, and pharmacists, continue to work together to ensure that all health information provided, including all practices for prescribing, dispensing and administration of medications are current, evidence-based, and in the best interest of patient and public safety. The following resources may be helpful to all practitioners in their conversations with the public:

- [Prescribing and Dispensing of Drugs to Treat COVID-19](#) - Tri-College guidance document
- [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
- [WHO advises that ivermectin only be used to treat COVID-19 within clinical trials](#) – World Health Organization
- [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