



Health and Wellness

## PEI Department of Health and Wellness

# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Community Pharmacies

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March 20, 2020

Note: This guidance provides basic information only as of the date of writing. It is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. For up to date information please access the information from the Chief Public Health Office at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/covid-19>

### What you need to know

- Community pharmacies can play an important role in supporting the response to suspected cases of COVID-19 and in preventing the spread of the virus.

A self-assessment tool has been provided by the CPHO and can be found at <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/self-assessment-covid-19>

- It is important to take the proper precautions in community pharmacies to protect both staff and clients/patients.
- The public is being encouraged to support pharmacies by not presenting in person if they feel ill.
- The public is being encouraged NOT to stock pile medications, rather to discuss accessing a reasonable quantity of medication from their pharmacy.

### General Advice to Pharmacies

- Post signage on entrance to the pharmacy informing the public that if they are experiencing fever and/or cough or difficulty breathing and have a travel history they should NOT enter the pharmacy. Rather they should self-isolate and call 811 for further instruction.
- If supplies are available, have masks, tissues, waste container and hand sanitizer available to the public and staff in pharmacies.
- Review infection prevention and control/occupational health and safety policies and procedures with staff. Encourage frequent hand washing.
- Reinforce messaging with staff from CPHO regarding self-isolation if symptoms are present. Encourage that staff use the self-assessment tools and/or call 811 for more information.
- Whenever possible, patients should be screened over the phone BEFORE presenting to the pharmacy.



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Sample screening:

1. Does the patient have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing?
  2. Has the patient traveled internationally in the 14 days before the onset of illness OR has the patient had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?
- If a patient screens as a suspect case over the phone the patient should be directed to call 811 for further guidance. The patient should get someone from outside of their household to pick up any medication or should have delivery arranged, if available. Medication delivery should be done with avoidance of any direct contact with the patient (e.g. place in mailbox)

For all questions related to regulatory issues, please contact the College of Pharmacy.