

Tuesday 24.03.20 1500 hours

Important information for all Community Pharmacists – Please share this with everyone in your team

Pharmacy Update

Dear Community Pharmacists

Thank you for all the work you are doing to support your communities in this challenging time. The health environment and response to this virus is changing on a daily basis but as the situation changes we will endeavour to continue to provide you with the most accurate local information available.

Supply of Personal Protective Equipment to Community Pharmacy

Many of you have asked questions about the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the community pharmacy context. Guidance from the MOH indicates PPE, e.g. masks, are not required if close contact can be avoided.

CPRG has also produced a resource on the use of face masks, see Appendix 1.

We believe community pharmacy practice, including giving vaccinations, can be modified to ensure close contact, defined as being within 2m of a person for more than 15 minutes, can be avoided.

We do however understand there will be some scenarios where this will not be possible such as, e.g., if you were to unexpectedly find yourself treating a person with cold and flu like symptoms. In this instance there would be benefit in the symptomatic person donning a face mask.

In order to protect you in a situation such as the one described above CPRG will send out a pharmacy PPE pack containing one box of (50 masks) and gloves to each community pharmacy. These will be distributed within the next 48 hours.

PPE is not required for assessing or serving asymptomatic patients. PPE is a limited resource, while there is some supply now we need to use it carefully.

Operating a Pharmacy under Alert Level 3 or 4

On Monday the Ministry of Health (MOH) convened a pharmacy sector task force. One of this group's actions is to develop specific guidance on what practicing pharmacy looks like under what the government describes as Alert level 3 and 4. Check the Uniting Against COVID-19 [government website](#) for information on alert levels.

We expect to have this guidance by Wednesday this week.

If you have not done so already it is important to consider how you will modify your pharmacy practice.

Please continue to check the [CPRG website](#) and Community Health Pathways [Community HealthPathways > Covid-19 Information](#) for the most up to date local information.

Kind regards,

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