

Dear health care partners:

I would like to thank you for your continued efforts as well as your willingness to mobilize and collaborate with Health Canada in these unprecedented times. As you know, Health Canada is working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, which is leading the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the emergence of COVID-19, Health Canada regulatory branches have taken the following measures:

- Communicate and coordinate with the pharmaceutical, therapeutic and manufacturing industries, other federal, provincial and territorial departments, and key international regulatory partners, as well as with Canadians;
- Conduct international monitoring for new diagnostic tests and obtain access to clinical trials or therapeutic products;
- Collaborate to reduce shortages and help Canadians obtain access to the health products they need, including launching dedicated and expedited services to support the processing of product submissions, medical instruments and clinical trials related to COVID-19;
- Consider additional regulatory measures to expedite approval of therapeutic products related to COVID-19.
- On March 18, the Minister of Health signed an [interim order](#) to allow for the importation and sale in Canada of medical devices, including COVID-19 diagnostic test kits, for a limited time. That same day, we authorized the sale or importation of two diagnostic devices. Moreover, we have authorized a total of five of these diagnostic devices as of March 27.
- [Interim measures](#) were taken to increase domestic production and to facilitate the importation of disinfectants and hand sanitizers. We have authorized 15 new hand sanitizers and seven new hard-surface disinfectants in the past week alone.

For the latest updates on health products and guidelines on personal protective equipment and on medical instruments, please visit our website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products.html>.

We will be holding a teleconference on **Thursday, April 9**, to further discuss how we can work together. Below is a complete list of guests and the proposed agenda. To confirm your participation and if you would like to suggest specific discussion topics, please contact Margaret Zimmermann (margaret.zimmermann@canada.ca). An invitation to this important meeting will be sent out shortly.

This is an unprecedented public health crisis in Canada's history. Your leadership is vital to help us meet the health needs of Canadians.

Sincerely,
Pierre Sabourin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Products and Food Branch