

**From:** Theis, Rick  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 11:19 AM  
**To:** Kim, Sabrina; Khalil, Samantha  
**Cc:** Zimmerman, Shannon; Stickney, Matt; Duchesneau, Olivier  
**Subject:** Re: QC to run out of certain meds in a week

Adding Sam as well. It might be worthwhile to do similar check across country on who has higher stock of these and lower need, to see if we can do same as with AB on PPE.

On Apr 12, 2020, at 11:17 AM, Kim, Sabrina <[Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.qc.ca](mailto: Sabrina.Kim@pmo-cpm.qc.ca)> wrote:

Hi there - FYI there is a piece in JDM that says QC is set to run out of approx 20 kinds of meds in a week, primarily those used for sedation. It also says chloroquine, HQ and Ativan are running low.

### **AFTER THE MASK SHORTAGE, MEDICATIONS**

QUEBEC | As feared, Quebec's supply of certain medications, especially those used for sedation, could run out within a week.

"We have a problem regarding medications," Premier François Legault admitted yesterday at his daily press briefing with Health Minister Danielle McCann and Public Health Director Dr. Horacio Arruda.

For about 20 drugs in particular, "we may have enough for about a week or so," says Legault, who prefers to "be transparent."

### **DISCUSSIONS WITH OTTAWA**

Discussions with the federal government and other provinces are currently underway to address procurement challenges.

"Of course, there are substitutes for some drugs," the Premier said.

"We are always in contact with our suppliers, but we also negotiate with the federal government. There are opportunities there," McCann added.

With respect to the supply of masks and gloves, Mr. Legault sought to be reassuring.

"Protective equipment is going well, the situation is improving, and we have help, including from certain provinces, which I will not name, but... We'll be able to tell you a little more in the next few days," Legault said.

### **IN THE AIR FOR SEVERAL DAYS**

The fear of a drug shortage has been felt for several days now.

Minister McCann had in fact raised this possibility in recent weeks.

Our Bureau of Investigation recently reported that about ten days ago, a health care institution in the Greater Montreal Area issued a memo expressing concern about difficulties in the supply of certain drugs, sometimes as common as acetaminophen or Ativan.

Therefore, doctors were asked to give preference to tablets over syrups and injectable products.

It had also been reported that stocks of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine, sometimes used to treat patients with coronavirus, have already been depleted.

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