

Dear Partner in Health Care,

I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing efforts as well as your willingness to engage and collaborate with Health Canada during this unprecedented time. As you know, Health Canada has been working closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada, which is leading the COVID-19 pandemic response. Since COVID-19 emerged, Health Canada's regulatory branches have been taking the following steps:

- Communicating and coordinating with pharmaceutical, therapeutic and manufacturing industry, other federal and provincial and territorial departments, and major international regulatory partners, as well as with Canadians;
- Conducting international surveillance for new diagnostic testing, getting access to clinical trials or therapeutic products;
- Collaborating to reduce shortages and helping Canadians get access to the health products they need, including launching dedicated and expedited services to support processing of COVID-related products, medical devices and clinical trial submissions;
- Considering additional regulatory measures to speed up approval of therapeutic products related to COVID-19.
- On March 18, the Minister of Health signed an [Interim Order](#) that will allow medical devices, including COVID-19 diagnostic test kits, to be imported and sold in Canada for a limited period of time. On the same day, we authorized two diagnostic devices for sale or import and as of March 27 have authorized a total of 5 of these diagnostic testing devices.
- [Interim measures](#) have been put in place to increase domestic production and facilitate importation of hand sanitizers and disinfectants. We licensed 15 new hand sanitizers and seven new hard-surface disinfectants in the past week alone.

For the latest updates on health products, guidance on personal protective equipment, and medical devices I would invite you to visit our website at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products.html>

We are organizing a call on **Thursday, April 9**, to further discuss how we can work together. Please see below for the full list of invitees as well as a proposed agenda. To confirm your participation, and if you would like to suggest specific topics of discussion, please contact Margaret Zimmermann (margaret.zimmermann@canada.ca). Please expect an invitation to this important meeting shortly.

This is an unprecedented public health crisis in Canadian history. Your leadership is crucial in helping us meet the health needs of Canadians.

Regards,
Pierre Sabourin
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Products and Food Branch, Health Canada