

COVID-19 Checklist for Pharmacies

Top 10 Things You Can Do to Prepare for COVID-19

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that all pharmacies immediately take the following actions:

- Use calming and reassuring language when patients ask for information.
- Have a fact sheet available to answer questions from patients on prescription refills, emergency supplies, payer coverage of medications, and other Rx-related information.
- Encourage people to buy cold medicines now, so they will not have to go out if they develop COVID-19.
- Establish a process for older adults, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic health conditions to pick up medications without waiting in line.
- Report unusual patient complaints, surges in symptoms of fever, cough, or respiratory distress, or surges in sales volumes of cold and flu medications, over-the-counter pain killers, or hand sanitizer.
- Implement infection control procedures, especially for clinic waiting areas:
 - a. Make sure staff maintain a distance of 3 feet from asymptomatic patients and at least 6 feet from those actively coughing.
 - b. Regularly clean and disinfect counters, waiting areas, and other spaces where public interaction occurs with an EPA-approved disinfectant. Clean at least every hour or after every 10 patients, whichever is more frequent.
 - c. Place alcohol-based hand sanitizer next to the checkout window so people can sanitize their hands after using common items, like the pen used to sign for prescriptions.

- Monitor all staff for sickness regularly. Take temperatures once per shift and send them home if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
- Update sick leave policies to place employees on sick leave if a family member is sick and to develop a post-illness return-to-work procedure.
- Provide recommended actions for unprotected exposures (e.g., not using recommended personal protective equipment, an unrecognized infectious patient contact).
- Know your active standing orders, collaborative practice agreements, and memorandums of understanding. Know the most up to date timelines on when you may be receiving certain capabilities or products (vaccines, therapeutics, testing).

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For answers to your COVID-19 questions, call 1-833-4ASKODH (1-833-427-5634).

Additional resources:

WSPA Guidance to Pharmacy Practitioners for Safe Practice During COVID-19 Outbreak:

<https://www.wsparx.org/news/492218/WSPA-Guidance-to-Pharmacy-Practitioners-for-Safe-Practice-During-COVID-19-Outbreak.htm>.

Ohio Revised Code, pharmacists; dangerous drugs: <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4729>.

Regarding the Use of Protocols to Initiate or Adjust Medications:

<https://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/Protocols/Joint%20Regulatory%20Statement%20-%20Use%20of%20Protocols%20to%20Initiate%20or%20Adjust%20Medications.pdf>.

<https://pharmacy.ohio.gov/Documents/Pubs/Special/Consult/Pharmacist%20Consult%20Agreement%20with%20Physicians.pdf>

Pharmacist Consult Agreements with Physicians: <https://www.ashp.org/Pharmacy-Practice/Resource-Centers/Coronavirus/Sample-List>.

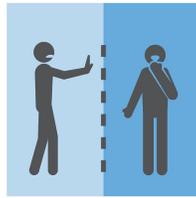
Coronavirus Disease 2019 Hospital Preparedness Tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/hospital-preparedness-checklist.pdf>

Sample List of Potential Pharmacy Public Health Roles at the Local or State Levels:

<https://www.ashp.org/Pharmacy-Practice/Resource-Centers/Coronavirus/Sample-List>.



STAY HOME
WHEN YOU ARE
SICK



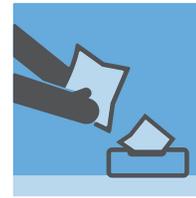
AVOID CONTACT
WITH PEOPLE
WHO ARE SICK



GET ADEQUATE SLEEP
AND EAT WELL-
BALANCED
MEALS



WASH HANDS OFTEN
WITH WATER AND SOAP
(20 SECONDS
OR LONGER)



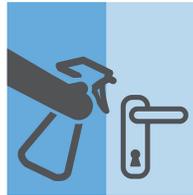
DRY HANDS WITH
A CLEAN TOWEL
OR AIR DRY
YOUR HANDS



COVER YOUR MOUTH
WITH A TISSUE OR
SLEEVE WHEN
COUGHING OR SNEEZING



AVOID TOUCHING
YOUR EYES, NOSE,
OR MOUTH WITH
UNWASHED HANDS
OR AFTER
TOUCHING SURFACES



CLEAN AND DISINFECT
"HIGH-TOUCH"
SURFACES OFTEN



CALL BEFORE VISITING
YOUR DOCTOR



PRACTICE GOOD
HYGIENE HABITS