

Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine Information for Providers and Public Health Officials

Responding to COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has learned of two people who ingested non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate, a chemical for aquarium use that is commercially available at stores and internet websites. One of the individuals died shortly after arrival at a hospital. The second individual was critically ill.

Ohio Department of Health Director Amy Acton, M.D., MPH, strongly recommends that clinicians and public health officials take the following actions:

- Educate patients on the serious risks of misusing non-pharmaceutical chloroquine products and other aquarium use chemicals.
- Counsel your patients on the importance of taking medications only as prescribed and as directed by healthcare providers.
- Contact your local poison center (1-800-222-1222) to report cases and to obtain specific medical management of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine poisoning.
- Report adverse events related to non-pharmaceutical products by emailing FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov or calling 1-888-InfoFDA (1-888-463-6332). Report adverse events related to pharmaceuticals to the FDA MedWatch program (<https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program>).

Additional information:

- Chloroquine phosphate, when used without a prescription and supervision of a healthcare provider, can cause serious health consequences, including death. Chloroquine, and the related compound hydroxychloroquine, should be used only under the supervision of a healthcare provider as prescribed medication and according to instructions provided.

- In overdose situations or when otherwise used inappropriately, these medications can lead to severe toxicity, including cardiac rhythm disturbances (such as prolonged QT), severe hypokalemia, cardiovascular collapse, seizures, coma, and death.
- Inappropriate uses include taking commercially available non-pharmaceutical products, taking chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate without a prescription, and taking additional doses not recommended by a healthcare provider. Chloroquine phosphate has a narrow therapeutic index — it can be toxic at levels not much higher than those prescribed — which raises the risk of inadvertent overdose.
- There are no routinely available pharmaceutical products that are FDA-approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

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

If you or a loved one are experiencing anxiety related to the coronavirus pandemic, help is available. Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990 (1-800-846-8517 TTY); connect with a trained counselor through the Ohio Crisis Text Line by texting the keyword “4HOPE” to 741 741; or call the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services help line at 1-877-275-6364 to find resources in your community.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 Ohio

Department
of Health

Protect yourself and others from
COVID-19 by taking these precautions.

PREVENTION

For additional information call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH or visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.



STAY HOME



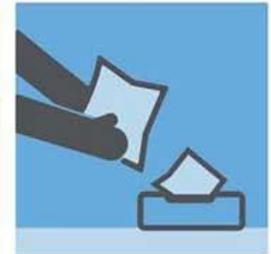
PRACTICE
SOCIAL
DISTANCING



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

For more information, visit: coronavirus.ohio.gov