



# State of Utah Board of Pharmacy

October 19, 2021

## **RE: Ivermectin Guidance**

Over the last months, the amount of ivermectin dispensed in Utah pharmacies has increased. The FDA has cautioned about the potential risks of use of ivermectin for both prevention and treatment of COVID-19. In response to the increase in ivermectin use for prevention or treatment of COVID-19, the American Medical Association, American Pharmacist Association, and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists issued a joint statement strongly opposing the ordering, prescribing, or dispensing of ivermectin<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, the Utah Department of Health and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food have issued caution for the use of ivermectin indicated for COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>

The FDA has not authorized or approved ivermectin for use in preventing or treating COVID-19 in humans or animals. Ivermectin is approved for human use in oral formulations to treat infections caused by parasitic worms and topical formulations to treat head lice and rosacea. Veterinary formulations are approved to treat certain internal and external parasites in livestock. Veterinary formulations are not indicated for any use in humans. The FDA emphasizes that taking large doses of ivermectin is dangerous.

The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) states that ivermectin is not approved for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. The CDC issued an alert on August 26, 2021 identifying an increase in serious illness associated with use of ivermectin for treatment or prevention of COVID-19.<sup>4</sup>

The National Institutes of Health's (NIH) COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel has also determined that there are currently insufficient data to recommend ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19. ClinicalTrials.gov has listings of ongoing clinical trials that might provide more information about these hypothesized uses in the future.

Due to the risk of adverse events for ivermectin without proven benefit and the potential for drug shortage, the Utah Board of Pharmacy and Utah Department of Health encourages both medical providers and pharmacists to follow established guidelines when prescribing and dispensing this medication.

---

1 <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

2 <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-apha-ashp-statement-ending-use-ivermectin-treat-covid-19>

3 <https://health.utah.gov/featured-news/health-and-agriculture-officials-warn-utahns-to-not-use-ivermectin-for-covid-19>

4 <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>

Physicians are responsible for making a diagnosis and prescribing treatments for their patients. Pharmacists have a corresponding responsibility and must use professional judgement when dispensing a prescription. The Utah Board of Pharmacy encourages pharmacists to use their professional judgement to evaluate medications prescribed off-label for COVID-19 prevention and treatment. Discuss concerns with the provider to ensure the medication is safe for the individual patient, the dose and quantity are appropriately prescribed, and drug interactions are evaluated with the patient's other medications.