

Coronavirus ^[1]

Global Impact ^[2]

Novartis discontinues hydroxychloroquine clinical trial based on slow enrollment, remains committed to pandemic research efforts

- *Study discontinued due to feasibility of recruitment; no safety issues have been reported or efficacy conclusions made*
- *Novartis remains committed to ongoing research and development for COVID-19*
- *Supply of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) from Novartis will continue for clinical trials and upon government requests worldwide*

Basel, June 19, 2020 — Novartis has made the decision to stop and discontinue its sponsored HCQ clinical trial for COVID-19 due to acute enrollment challenges that have made trial completion infeasible. The recruitment challenge facing our HCQ trial has made it unlikely that the clinical team will be able to collect meaningful data in a reasonable timeframe to determine the effectiveness of HCQ in treating patients with COVID-19. No safety issues have been reported, and there are no conclusions on efficacy from the study.

[Read the full media release](#) ^[3]

Novartis in Canada, including Sandoz Canada, initiates Community Strong COVID-19 response program

- *United Way Centraide Canada & Food Banks Canada to receive donations through the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. and Sandoz Canada Inc. program*
- *Special fund created for organizations supporting COVID-19 patient needs*
- *Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. and Sandoz Canada Inc. employee contributions to provide additional community group funds*

Dorval, Quebec, April 27, 2020 – Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. and Sandoz Canada Inc. announced today that \$500,000 will be given to community and patient groups as part of the companies' newly created Community Strong COVID-19 response program. Bringing support to communities in need and collaborating with patient organizations to address the needs of patients is very much a priority for the organization at this critical time.

[Read the full media release](#) ^[4]

March 20, 2020

Novartis commits to donate up to 130 million doses of hydroxychloroquine to support the global COVID-19 pandemic response

- Hydroxychloroquine and a related drug, chloroquine, are currently under evaluation in clinical trials for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Novartis Sandoz division will pursue appropriate regulatory authorizations and, upon approval, will work with stakeholders to determine how best to get this medicine to the patients who need it
- Commitment builds on recently announced USD 20 million Novartis COVID-19 Response Fund, drug discovery and development collaborations and essential medicines price stability
- Novartis encourages industry, governments and international institutions to work together to ensure adequate global access of medications to treat COVID-19 patients

Basel, March 20, 2020 - Novartis announced today its commitment to donate up to 130 million doses of generic hydroxychloroquine to support the global COVID-19 pandemic response. Hydroxychloroquine and a related drug, chloroquine, are currently under evaluation in clinical trials for the treatment of COVID-19. Novartis is supporting ongoing clinical trial efforts, and will evaluate needs for additional clinical trials.

[Read the full media release](#) ^[5]

March 18, 2020

Novartis announces broad range of initiatives to respond to COVID-19 Pandemic and creates USD 20 million global fund to support impacted communities

- Novartis COVID-19 Response Fund will provide grants of up to USD 1 million to support communities around the world most impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak
- Novartis to join collaborative R&D efforts with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome, and Mastercard -supported COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator and a partnership with the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)
- Commitments build on Sandoz pledge to maintain price stability of essential medicines and strong support of patients and healthcare systems
- Company continues to maintain strong focus on protecting employee health, ensuring supply of medicines for patients and smooth clinical trial operations

“We are dealing with an extraordinary and unprecedented public health crisis that requires an incredible level of involvement and collaboration across government, society and business. As a medicines company present in over 140 countries, we are stepping in to provide additional financial support to critical community or national programs that can help address urgent public health needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the power of working together as an industry, we are also bringing the talent and capabilities of our industry-leading R&D organization to two leading and important collaborative R&D initiatives.” -

Vas Narasimhan, CEO of Novartis

Basel, March 17, 2019 - Novartis today announced a broad set of measures to support the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include the creation of a global fund to support communities around the world impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well

as the company's decision to join two key cross-industry R&D initiatives.

[Read the full media release](#) [6]

March 16, 2020

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread globally, our primary concern at Novartis and Sandoz remains the health and safety of our associates and patients globally, and it is important that we protect them.

With that in mind, effective Monday, March 16 2020, **all Novartis and Sandoz employees within Europe, US and Canada are requested to work from home, with the exception of those working in laboratories, manufacturing sites and in the field. In Canada, field-based employees have also been asked to work from home.** This measure is valid for three weeks until April 3, 2020. We will continuously assess the situation and adapt accordingly.

Some governments around the world are providing local guidance that is stricter than this Novartis global guidance. In those cases, the local guidance takes precedence.

Given the nature of some of the work undertaken at Novartis/Sandoz, it is not possible for everyone to work remotely. By reducing the numbers of associates visiting our sites, we can protect those employees who cannot work offsite.

In addition to the measures above, Novartis/Sandoz has updated its general international travel restriction. **All international business travel requires approval from an executive level manager – at Sandoz Canada, it is the North American head of Sandoz. Similarly, business travel within Canada requires approval from the President and General Manager of Sandoz Canada.**

Novartis/Sandoz remains responsive to any developments regarding coronavirus and will take all necessary steps to protect its associates and patients as the situation evolves.

March 11, 2020

As Novartis continues to closely monitor the coronavirus situation, our primary concern is the health and safety of our associates and patients globally. We will continue to deliver our medicines to patients around the world and we do not anticipate supply chain disruption at this time.

Sandoz Canada would like to reassure its customers and patients that we have enough stock to cover production needs for the short to mid-term. In addition, in order to ensure the continuity of our product supply, our local and global teams have performed an assessment in regards to products, components and API sourced abroad and we have increased our forecast on some targeted Sandoz products whose demand could be expected to increase due to the coronavirus.

Novartis has also put the following measures in place:

- We are implementing general international travel restrictions.
- We have issued guidance on how our associates can protect themselves against coronavirus infection
- Where required, we have enacted mitigation plans to ensure ongoing drug supply to depots for our clinical studies, and we are working closely with the authorities on dispensing to trial participants

In response to an urgent call for research and development on coronavirus, issued by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), [7] Novartis has expressed its willingness to contribute to this important effort by making available a set of compounds from our libraries that we consider suitable for in vitro antiviral testing. In addition, we are evaluating our existing products to see if any could be repurposed beyond their approved indications.

Our generics business Sandoz has committed to keeping prices stable for a basket of essential medicines that may help in the treatment of coronavirus cases, specifically antivirals to reduce the impact of coronavirus and antibiotics to combat pneumonia. Read the Sandoz media release. [8]

Novartis remains responsive to any developments regarding coronavirus and will take all necessary steps to protect its associates and patients as the situation evolves.

Updated on May 4, 2020

Source URL: <https://www.sandoz.ca/en/coronavirus>

Links

[1] <https://www.sandoz.ca/en/coronavirus>

[2] <https://www.sandoz.ca/en/stories/global-impact>

[3] <https://www.novartis.com/news/media-releases/novartis-discontinues-hydroxychloroquine-clinical-trial-based-slow-enrollment-remains-committed-pandemic-research-efforts>

[4] <https://www.sandoz.ca/en/stories/global-impact/novartis-canada-including-sandoz-canada-initiates-community-strong-covid-19>

[5] <https://www.novartis.com/news/media-releases/novartis-commits-donate-130-million-doses-hydroxychloroquine-support-global-covid-19-pandemic-response>

[6] <https://www.novartis.com/news/media-releases/novartis-announces-broad-range-initiatives-respond-covid-19-pandemic-creates-usd-20-million-global-fund-support-impacted-communities>

[7] <https://www.efpia.eu/news-events/the-efpia-view/statements-press-releases/european-pharmaceutical-industry-response-to-coronavirus/>

[8] <https://www.sandoz.com/news/media-releases/sandoz-commits-keep-prices-stable-basket-essential-medicines>