



COVID-19 Medication Myths



Some drugs can cure or prevent COVID-19.

False. Each day clinical research studies are making progress finding out which drugs might be effective and safe for COVID-19. Drugs being studied include hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra®), remdesivir, tocilizumab, vitamin C, vitamin D, and zinc. Until we know they work in COVID-19, experts suggest these medications should only be used in clinical research studies. Patients treated with these medications may experience serious side effects without knowing if they provide any benefit. Vaccines are currently being developed but are not yet available.



Click here for information on drugs for COVID-19



Antibiotics will help treat COVID-19.

False. COVID-19 is caused by a **virus** called SARS-CoV-2. Just as antibiotics don't work against viruses that cause the cold and flu, antibiotics can't treat this virus either. Antibiotics only work against **bacteria**, and should only be used in COVID-19 if there is a bacterial infection (such as bacterial pneumonia) in addition to COVID-19. Unnecessary antibiotic use can cause side effects and lead to bacteria becoming resistant.



Anti-inflammatory drugs worsen COVID-19.

False. If you are regularly taking anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen (Advil®), naproxen (Aleve®) or acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin®), do not stop them without talking to your healthcare provider. For fever or pain due to COVID-19, there isn't enough information to show that anti-inflammatory drugs are unsafe.



Some blood pressure medications are unsafe in COVID-19.

False. There isn't any proof that blood pressure medications are unsafe in COVID-19. In fact, most experts and organizations like the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and the American College of Cardiology strongly recommend continuing these medications in stable patients to prevent blood pressure or heart problems.



For information on the **truths** in COVID-19

Visit www.canada.ca/COVID-19 and talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.



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