

COVID-19 Reponses Efforts – March 16, 2020

Utah Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing in collaboration with the Utah Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Utahns during the COVID-19 outbreak. The following information is for the duration of the declared emergency.

COVID-19 Emergency Licenses

Your license must be current and in good standing in your home state in order to obtain an emergency license.

Please go to the following link to apply for an emergency license. <https://dopl.utah.gov/pharm/>

Authorizing Emergency Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products

Approved on 3/16/2020

To reduce opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19 and mitigate possible shortages, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and the Utah Board of Pharmacy issues the following guidance to permit the compounding and sale of certain alcohol-based hand sanitizer products by Utah-licensed pharmacies. Compounders must adhere to the requirements and recommendations set forth in the FDA's Policy for Temporary Compounding of Certain Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer Products During the Public Health Emergency. <https://www.fda.gov/media/136118/download> This guidance is in effect until rescinded by the United States Food and Drug Administration.

Reuse of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Compounding Activities

Approved on 3/16/2020

To mitigate reported shortages, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing and the Utah Board of Pharmacy issues the following guidance to permit licensees conducting sterile compounding to

reuse certain personal protective equipment (PPE). To reuse sterile compounding garb, a licensed compounding facility shall comply with all the following:

- Develop and implement policies and procedures for the appropriate reuse of PPE that will not compromise the microbial state of control in the compounding rooms.
- Train compounding staff on the policies and procedures developed for reusing PPE.
- For the reuse of masks:
 - The identification of personnel is clearly stated on the mask (i.e. initialed).
 - Masks are removed on the dirty side of the ante-room or outside of the perimeter line of the segregated control area (SCA) without touching the inside of the mask.
 - Each mask for reuse is placed in its own small paper bag with the personnel's initials on the outside of the bag. A new bag must be used each time the mask is removed for reuse.
 - All masks in bags must be placed in a container located where masks would normally be donned.
 - Compounding personnel must inspect the mask each time it is reused to ensure the mask provides adequate control (i.e. condition of the mask, whether it is visibly soiled, handling technique, etc.) in accordance with the facility's policies and procedures.

For the reuse of gowns:

- Gowns may only be reused over the course of a single day.
- Compounding personnel must inspect the gown each time it is reused to ensure the gown provides adequate control (i.e. condition of the gown, whether it is visibly soiled, handling technique, etc.) in accordance with the facility's policies and procedures.

IMPORTANT: The following sterile compounding garb cannot be reused:

Shoe covers and sterile gloves

General Reminders for Pharmacy Personnel to Mitigate Risk of Exposure

1. Please ensure your staff use appropriate social distancing and avoid close contact to reduce spread. Also remind staff to be cautious about touching medications. Disinfect counting trays and spatulas routinely. Consider implementing policies similar to food service workers where staff are required to set a timer and wash their hands at regular intervals (30 minutes to 1 hour).
2. Establish a process for reducing or eliminating the amount of time older adults, pregnant women, and people with chronic health conditions wait in line to pick up medications.
3. Implement infection control procedures, especially for waiting areas:
 - a. Staff should maintain a distance of 3 feet from asymptomatic patients or other staff members and at least 6 feet from those actively coughing.
 - b. Regularly clean counters, waiting areas, and other spaces where public interaction occurs with disinfectant. It is recommended to clean at least every hour or after every 10 patients, whichever is more frequent.

- c. Place alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% isopropyl alcohol or ethyl alcohol next to the cash register or check out area so people can sanitize their hands after using common items like pens.
 - d. Wash hands with soap and water frequently and for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - e. Cover cough and sneeze with tissue and discard.
4. Monitor all staff for sickness regularly. Staff should stay home if they have symptoms of a respiratory infection.
 5. Pharmacies should consider using alternative delivery options (mail or delivery) for patients to help maintain social distancing recommendations
 6. Encourage people to buy cold medicine and refill prescriptions now, if possible, so they do not have to go out if they develop COVID-19.

COVID-19 Guidance for Refills

Pharmacists may provide patients with a 3-day emergency supply of medications according to

Utah Code 58-17b-608 Emergency refills.

1. In the interest of the patient's health, a pharmacist or pharmacy intern may, in an emergency, refill a prescription for a patient, but only if the prescribing practitioner is not available promptly to authorize the refill and only if in the professional judgment of the pharmacist or pharmacy intern the prescription should be refilled.
2. Only sufficient medication as necessary in the emergency may be furnished by the pharmacist or pharmacy intern, not to exceed a three-day supply.
3. The practitioner shall be contacted as soon as possible for further instructions concerning the emergency.

Pharmacist may dispense a one-time early dispensing of a Schedule II prescription, using professional judgement, and shall document the reason for early dispensing.