



City of McAllen | COVID-19 Brief

Severe Illness Associated with Using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to Prevent and Treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has become aware of two individuals who ingested non-pharmaceutical chloroquine phosphate, a chemical for aquarium use that is commercially available for purchase at stores and through internet websites. One of the individuals died shortly after arrival to the hospital. The second individual was critically ill with severe gastrointestinal symptoms and cardiac conduction abnormalities.

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 medications.

At this time, there are NO routinely available pharmaceutical products that are FDA-approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19.

Recommendations for the Public

1. Do **not** ingest aquarium use products or any other chemicals that contain chloroquine phosphate. These chemicals are not intended for human consumption and can lead to serious health consequences, including death.
2. Medications like chloroquine phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate should be taken only when prescribed by and under the supervision of your healthcare provider and always according to the instructions provided.
3. Seek immediate medical attention if you are experiencing any unexpected symptoms after taking chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine by contacting your healthcare provider or your poison center (1- 800-222-1222).
4. Adverse events related to pharmaceuticals can be reported to the FDA MedWatch program (<https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program>).

Adverse events related to non-pharmaceutical products can be reported by emailing [FDA-COVID-19- Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov) or calling 1-888-InfoFDA (1-888-463-6332).

For More Information

- CDC coronavirus website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>)



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- U.S. Government coronavirus website (<https://www.coronavirus.gov/>)
- FDA Letter to Stakeholders (<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/product-safety-information/fda-letter-stakeholders-do-not-use-chloroquine-phosphate-intended-fish-treatment-covid-19-humans>)
- Banner Health (Phoenix, AZ) press release (<https://bannerhealth.mediaroom.com/chloroquine-phosphate>)
- Dailymed (<https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/index.cfm>) for medical prescribing information
- American College of Medical Toxicology (<https://www.acmt.net>) for poisoning information
- Association of American Poison Control Centers (<https://www.aapcc.org>)

Stay At Home Order Helps Stop The Spread

The City of McAllen is encouraging everyone to follow the Stay At Home Order. Hidalgo County has 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19. We appreciate your efforts and understand your lives have been greatly impacted. These difficult times have affected the entire country. But, for the safety of your family, friends and fellow citizens across the country, please stay at home to stop the spread. For more important information please reference the City of McAllen COVID-19 web page and Hidalgo County's web page below:

<https://www.mcallen.net/covid19/latest.html>

<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2630/Coronavirus-Updates>

McAllen Offers Virtual Services

As a reminder, McAllen Public Library has created Connect with MPL to provide families who are spending more time at home, the opportunity to stay connected with the library virtual features for everyone in the family. The virtual features such as story times and DIY crafts will be scheduled daily and can be viewed on the McAllen Public Library's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube accounts by searching @mcallenlibrary.

McAllen Parks and Recreation is excited to present McAllen Parks UNPLUGGED to help you make the most of your downtime! Tune in for new activities every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 3p.m. on @McallenParks social media or McAllenParks.net.



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How to Help Senior Citizens During Coronavirus Pandemic

The elderly are the most vulnerable to Coronavirus. Let's all do our part to keep them safe and out of harm's way. It is important to ensure safe practices when caring for the elderly.

Here are some helpful tips on what you can do:

- **Stay Home and Keep Your Hands Clean (and to Yourself)**
- **Call to Check In**
- **Shop and Drop**
 - Offer to go shopping for senior citizens, then call to schedule a drop-off merchandise at their door
- **Help Prepare Food for Them**
- **Introduce Them to Technology**
 - teach them how to use Skype, Facebook video chatting, WhatsApp or FaceTime. They'll be able to stay in touch with loved ones
- **Help Them Find Telemedicine**
- **Guide Them Towards Reputable Information Sources**
 - Gently informing them of sources
- **Help Keep Them Occupied**
 - Gifting books, puzzles, decks of cards, craft kits, games, grownup coloring books and movies can help them pass the time.
- **Keep Them Company From a Distance**
 - cooking together and playing card games together over video chat.

Please see the link below for more details and ideas:

<https://parade.com/1009763/jessicasager/coronavirus-elderly-senior-citizens-how-to-help/>