



**Louisiana Board of Pharmacy**  
3388 Brentwood Drive  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-1700  
Telephone 225.925.6496 ~ E-mail: [info@pharmacy.la.gov](mailto:info@pharmacy.la.gov)



## MEMORANDUM

To: Licensees & Interested Parties

From: Malcolm J Broussard, Executive Director

Date: March 23, 2020

Re: Emergency Rule for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine Rescinded

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The Board issued an Emergency Rule on March 22 to limit the dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine by pharmacists when those drugs were prescribed for the COVID-19 outbreak. The rule was issued in response to reports from multiple hospitals unable to obtain adequate supplies of those two drugs to treat their patients suffering from confirmed cases. We had also received reports of hoarding and inappropriate use.

While the drug manufacturers had reported their increased manufacturing, they also estimated relief of the shortage in about six to eight weeks. The Board determined it appropriate to limit the dispensing of those two drugs when prescribed for the COVID-19 outbreak for a limited period of time until the supply chain could be replenished.

With new information about a significant donation and distribution of those drugs from the manufacturer, along with the removal of the drug from FDA's drug shortage list, it appears the supply chain issue for those drugs has been resolved.

Since the basis for the rule appears to be resolved, the Board has determined it appropriate to rescind the Emergency Rule, effective immediately.

As each pharmacy may experience limited allocations from their distributor, we encourage each pharmacy to exercise their professional discretion to dispense limited quantities of the drugs as may be appropriate.

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**NOTICE:** In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about the Board's actions or procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following: (1) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy; 3388 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70809; 225.925.6496; [info@pharmacy.la.gov](mailto:info@pharmacy.la.gov) (2) Committee on House & Governmental Affairs; La. House of Representatives; PO Box 44486; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.2403; [h&ga@legis.la.gov](mailto:h&ga@legis.la.gov) (3) Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La. Senate; PO Box 94183; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.9845; [s&g@legis.la.gov](mailto:s&g@legis.la.gov)