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NORTH CENTRAL PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

419 E 7TH ST.
THE DALLES, OR 97058
541-506-2600 • NCPHD.ORG

Public Service Announcement

Date: Aug. 26, 2021
To: All Media
From: Shellie Campbell, Director
North Central Public Health District
Subject: Ivermectin Use to treat COVID is Leading to Severe Illness

The CDC issued a health advisory today about a rapid increase in ivermectin prescriptions – now up 24-fold over pre-pandemic levels -- and reports of severe illness associated with use of ivermectin products to prevent or treat COVID-19.

Ivermectin is not FDA approved for use in preventing or treating COVID, and has not been proven as a way to prevent or treat it. Calls to poison control centers have gone up nationwide as a result of people taking ivermectin improperly.

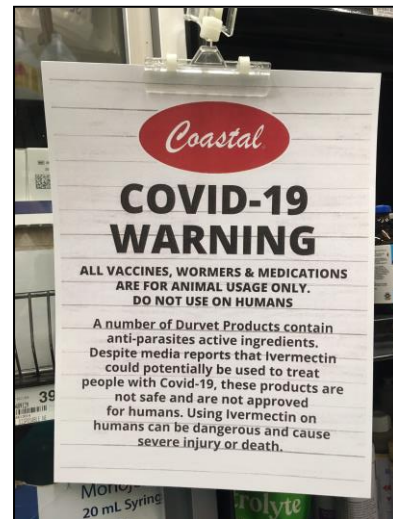
Ivermectin is approved for prescription use in people to treat conditions like parasitic worms, head lice and rosacea. Veterinary ivermectin is also sold over the counter as a de-wormer for animals.

Locally, Coastal Farm & Ranch in The Dalles has put up signs warning that its ivermectin products are for animal use only. The sign says, in part, “Despite media reports that Ivermectin could potentially be used to treat people with Covid-19, these products are not safe and are not approved for humans.”

Large enough, well-designed and well-conducted trials are needed to provide more guidance on the role of ivermectin in treatment of COVID.

Nationally, calls to poison control centers in January 2021 were triple what they were pre-pandemic. By July, it was five times the pre-pandemic level.

In 2020, the Oregon Poison Control Center saw just three cases of intentional misuse of ivermectin. Just this month alone, it has fielded nine such calls.



Sign at Coastal Farm & Ranch

Ivermectin products meant for large animals, such as “sheep drench” injections and “pour-on” for cattle, can be highly concentrated and result in overdoses when used by humans.

Taking too much ivermectin can cause nausea, vomiting, confusion, hallucinations, dizziness, headache, fast heart rate, seizures and even death. Seek immediate attention or call the poison control hotline at 1-800-222-1222 for advice if you have taken ivermectin and are having symptoms.

The best way to prevent COVID is to get vaccinated. Every local pharmacy in The Dalles offers walk-in appointments. One Community Health and Mid-Columbia Medical Center outpatient clinics all offer the vaccine by appointment, as does North Central Public Health District. Call NCPHD at 541-506-2600 to book an appointment.

All Wasco County residents get a \$50 VISA card for their first dose, whether they get it at a pharmacy, doctor’s office or the health district. If you get it from a pharmacy, you will get a sticker on your vaccine card, which you must present to NCPHD, at 419 E. 7th St., to get the gift card.

(For more information, please visit [COVID-19 Vaccine in Oregon](#), contact North Central Public Health District at (541) 506-2600, visit us on the web at www.ncphd.org or find us on Facebook.)

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