



Chelan-Douglas Health District

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IVERMECTIN SHOULD NOT BE USED TO PREVENT OR TREAT COVID-19

East Wenatchee – Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) advises people against the use of Ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved Ivermectin for use in treating or preventing COVID-19 in humans.

Ivermectin is approved at [very specific doses](#) for some parasitic worms, and topical (on the skin) formulations for head lice and skin conditions like rosacea. Ivermectin is not an anti-viral (a drug for treating viruses).

CDHD asks that you never use medications [intended for animals](#) on yourself. Ivermectin for animals is very different from those approved for humans. Taking large doses of Ivermectin is dangerous and can cause serious harm. If you have a prescription for Ivermectin for an FDA-approved use, get it from a legitimate source and take it as prescribed. Here is what we know:

- There is [inadequate evidence](#) to recommend for or against the use of Ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. The FDA has not reviewed data to support use of Ivermectin in COVID-19 patients to treat or to prevent COVID-19; however, some initial research is underway.
- Ivermectin for approved uses can interact with other medications, like blood-thinners. Adverse side effects from taking Ivermectin, which occur 1-10% of the time with standard doses, include rapid heart rate, swelling of face, swelling of feet, low blood pressure, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea, decreased white blood cell counts, and hepatitis.
- You can overdose on Ivermectin, which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension (low blood pressure), allergic reactions (itching and hives), dizziness, ataxia (problems with balance), seizures, coma, and even death.

[Effective ways](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19 continue to be the use of masks, staying at least 6 feet apart from others who do not live with you, avoiding large crowds and frequent hand washing. For public health updates, visit www.cdhd.wa.gov and follow CDHD on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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