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From: Ron Kirschner, MD, Medical Director  
To: ALL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS  
Subject: Misuse of ivermectin for COVID-19 prophylaxis or treatment  
Date: 4/30/21

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- Ivermectin is an antiparasitic agent administered orally to treat infestations with strongyloides and other nematodes, as well as topically to treat lice or scabies.
- In vitro studies in early 2020 suggested that high dose ivermectin might inhibit coronavirus replication in cell culture.
- However, clinical benefits in patients with COVID-19 have not been demonstrated, and the FDA advises against using ivermectin to treat or prevent the disease.
- Though generally well tolerated, overdose can be associated with hypotension, CNS depression, or seizure. ED treatment is symptomatic and supportive care (there is no specific antidote).
- For a 70 kg adult with strongyloides, therapeutic dosing would be 200 mcg/kg, or 15 mg/day.
- We recommend that a young child ingesting more than this amount be referred to a health care facility.
- Ivermectin is also available in other formulations and strengths for veterinary use.
- We recommend that adults who are concerned with COVID-19 contact their providers about obtaining one of the FDA-approved vaccines.

#### Reference

Why you should not use ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID-19, U.S. FDA 3/5/21.

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

**Our certified specialists in poison information and physician toxicologists  
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