



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
PRESS RELEASE
6 MAY 2020**

HSA REMOVED MORE THAN 1,700 LISTINGS OF HEALTH PRODUCTS MAKING FRAUDULENT COVID-19 RELATED CLAIMS; WARNINGS ISSUED TO OVER 1,600 INDIVIDUAL SELLERS AND COMPANIES

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has intensified surveillance on local e-commerce platforms and retail shops to clamp down on health products with false and misleading claims that purport to prevent, treat or diagnose COVID-19. Since February 2020, more than 1,700 product listings have been removed for making fraudulent COVID-19 claims, and over 1,600 warning letters have been issued to the sellers and companies marketing such products.

2 The products detected include test kits for home use, health supplements, herbs, traditional medicines and hand sanitisers. Please refer to Annex A for the online listings of some of these products.

ILLEGAL SALE OF TEST KITS FOR HOME USE

3 To date, HSA has detected and removed more than 40 listings of COVID-19 test kits for sale on local e-commerce platforms with the cooperation of Carousell, Lazada, Shopee, Ebay and Facebook etc. The sellers of these test kits have made fraudulent claims such as *“positive results may be visible (in) as soon as 2 minutes”*, *“95% Accuracy and Results within 10 minutes”* or *“diagnose COVID-19 within 10 minutes”*. These test kits were sold at \$10 - \$290. From HSA’s investigation, none of the sellers had the physical stocks with them and would only import them from overseas upon receiving the orders.

4 HSA has not approved any COVID-19 test kits for home use. These test kits are not validated by the authority and have inherent design and technology limitations that may result in incorrect or misleading findings.

5 Currently, testing for COVID-19 in Singapore can only be done by clinical laboratories or medical professionals in clinics and hospitals to ensure an accurate test result and diagnosis. Consumers who feel unwell should seek medical advice. Self-directed use of such unapproved test kits by consumers can lead to a false sense

of security and risk the spreading of COVID-19 unknowingly due to false negative readings, or result in delay in seeking appropriate treatment.

HEALTH PRODUCTS WITH FALSE AND MISLEADING CLAIMS

6 Many sellers and companies (such as Chinese medical halls, health supplement retailers and multi-level marketing companies) have also advertised an array of products as being able to prevent or fight against COVID-19. HSA has detected and removed over a hundred such online listings and warned these sellers and companies. The products included health supplements, traditional medicines, herbal remedies and probiotics. Health supplements such as “red ginseng” and “Hawaiian spirulina” sold online were promoted as being “good for coronavirus”, and herbal fragrance pouches sold at a TCM clinic were marketed to help “*protect from the coronavirus*”. Other products had claims such as “*prevent COVID-19 with this immune system booster*” and “*use Vit C for the prevention of COVID-19*”.

7 Most of these products are meant for general health and wellness. There is no scientific evidence that any of these products can prevent or treat COVID-19. These fraudulent claims give a false impression that one may be well-protected or immune from the dangers of the ongoing pandemic.

MISLEADING CLAIMS FOR SANITISERS AND DISINFECTANT SPRAYS FOR HANDS/BODY

8 Misleading claims have also been made on hand and body sanitisers. HSA has issued more than 650 warning letters to sellers and companies, which made false or misleading claims in their advertisements. The claims included “*protects against Coronavirus*”, “*kill viruses including coronavirus*” and “*stops coronavirus*”. Consumers are advised that washing your hands regularly with soap and water is still the best way in reducing the spread of germs such as bacteria and viruses. Hand sanitisers can be used when soap and water are not available, but they may not eliminate all types of germs and may not work well if hands are visibly dirty.

HSA’S ADVISORY

9 “Consumers should be aware that there are no HSA approved home-based test kits; no health supplements or herbal remedies, and no consumer devices approved for COVID-19 diagnosis or treatment. Do not fall for the marketing gimmicks of sellers and retailers,” said Associate Professor Chan Cheng Leng, Group Director of the

Health Products Regulation Group, HSA. *“Not only do consumers waste money on these unproven remedies, they may put themselves and people around them at unnecessary risk due to the false sense of security.”*

10 Dr Leong Hoe Nam, infectious disease specialist at Mount Elizabeth Hospital and member of the Medicines Advisory Committee, added: *“It is unfortunate that many unscrupulous dealers preyed on the fears of public, offering these unproven tests and treatment regimens and even oversell their sanitisers. This is not only falsely misleading, it is ethically wrong. The public should be wary of these gimmicks. The more impossible the claims are, the more likely it is a dud. Don't fall prey, don't be a victim. Fact check and stay safe.”*

ALERT HSA TO SUSPICIOUS PRODUCTS

11 HSA will continue to actively monitor the market and take stern actions against sellers and companies that make false and misleading claims on their health products. We also encourage consumers to be vigilant and report any suspicious sale or advertising of health products with COVID-19 related claims to HSA, through email at hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg or by phone at 6866 3485 for our further action.

ADVISORY TO SELLERS AND SUPPLIERS

12 HSA reminds dealers and sellers not to make false or misleading claims that the products they are selling can prevent, protect against or treat diseases such as COVID-19.

13 Any claim made in relation to COVID-19 must be supported by the appropriate scientific evidence. A product that makes such a claim must first be evaluated and registered by HSA. Sellers who falsely advertise products as preventing or treating COVID-19 are liable to prosecution and if convicted, may be imprisoned for up to 12 months and/or fined up to \$20,000.

14 HSA reminds those who intend to deal in medicines or health products over the Internet to first check and familiarise themselves with any regulatory requirements or controls that may be applicable to them, so as to avoid inadvertently contravening the law in Singapore.

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
SINGAPORE
6 MAY 2020**

About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit <http://www.hsa.gov.sg/>.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

About HSA's Health Products Regulation Group

The Health Products Regulation Group (HPRG) of HSA ensures that drugs, innovative therapeutics, medical devices and health-related products are wisely regulated and meet appropriate safety, quality and efficacy standards. It contributes to the development of biomedical sciences in Singapore by administering a robust, scientific and responsive regulatory framework.

Online listings of products making fraudulent COVID-19 related claims

COVID-19 total antibody, IgG/IgM Combo Rapid Test

Test	Sensitivity	Specificity
Total antibody	93.1% (161/173)	100% (33/33)
IgG	82.7% (143/173)	100% (33/33)
IgM	84.7% (112/173)	100% (33/33)

Use of these tests:

- 1) The first visit suspected patient (molecular results or molecular negative), if antibody positive, should be managed as confirmed case; if antibody negative, it suggests to do PCR again, and test antibody after one week.
- 2) The asymptomatic close contacts or investigation crowd, if antibody positive, no matter how the PCR result is, should be managed as carriers; if antibody negative, it suggests to do PCR firstly and follow up with antibody detection, it can be excluded from COVID infection if results negative again.
- 3) For asymptomatic quarantined 14-days people, if antibody positive, it suggests to do PCR again and be kept under observation.

All test results need to be combined with the patient's clinical symptoms and signs, and the interpretation of the test results must follow the local diagnostic guidelines in each country.
 Reference: Diagnosis and treatment plan for the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). <http://www.chinacdc.cn/cz/q>

Advertisement

Chat Make Offer

S\$290 Share 1

TEST KITS *RESULT IN 15 MINS**

- Northpoint City
- Meetup
- New
- We encourage buyers to read reviews, and chat with sellers before buying any product. Always verify before buying, especially for products making health claims

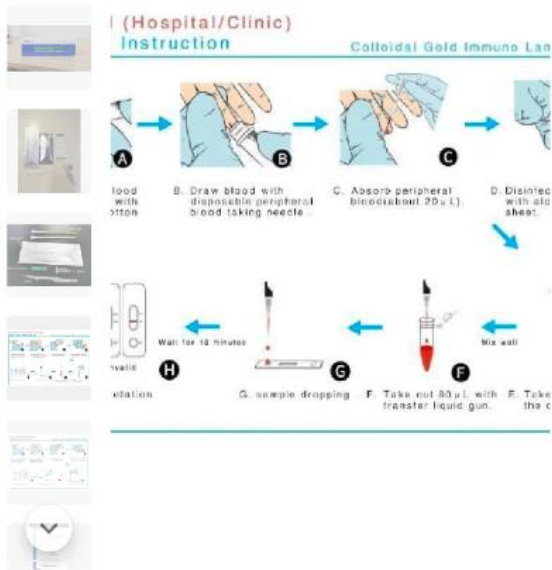
- TEST KITS (COVID-19)
- =====
- Complete Diagnostics Program
 - ISO Certify
 - Result in 15mins
 - 1 box (20 sets)
 - 1 carton (30 boxes)
 - CIF Any ASWP (3-5 working days)

Covid 19 test kit

Chat Make Offer

S\$80 Share Like

- Causeway Point
- Meetup · Carousell Protection
- New
- Pm to order
- Result in 30 mins
- 7 hours ago In [Everything Else](#)



Chat

Make Offer

S\$50

Share 2

COVID-19 At Home Test Kit (Pre-order)

- Eastpoint Mall
- Mailing · Meetup · Carousell Protection
- New

Able to take even with no symptoms but suspect infection. 95% Accuracy and Results within 10 minutes.

TUV SUV Certified with Declaration of Conformity.

Certification based on International Standard EN ISO 13485 (Medical devices

– Quality management systems – Requirements for regulatory purposes)

In one box for one person, you will get 4 items: 1x IGM and IGG test paper (white color thing in the silver bag), 1x Diluent, 1x dilute drop, 1x Pipette

IGM is for testing if someone is positive/negative for COVID19
 IGG is for testing if someone is positive/negative for COVID19 but recovered

Covid-19 IgM antibody first quickly emerges 3-7 days after a person is infected, and mainly exists in the blood. This test kit is used to detect IgM antibody in the blood.



Advertisement

Chat

Make Offer

S\$30

Share Like

✓ 100 CORONA-VIRUS TEST KIT 100 ✓

- Singapore
- Mailing · Carousell Protection
- New

Pre-Order Only! Stock arriving in 7-14 days!
Corona-Virus Test Kit (Test it at home), accurate result out in 15 min by Rapid finger-prick!

Package Included:
Test Kits Corona-Virus Test Kit x 2
Covid-19 Drip Tester x 1
Accessories to collect blood sample

5 hours ago In [Everything Else](#)

Buy safely with Carousell Protection
Receive your item as listed or get your money back.



Shipping

Tracked Package 2~3 days · S\$0



Chat

Make Offer

S\$10

Share Like

COVID-19 IgM/IgG One Step Rapid Test Panel (25 Tests per Box)

- Novena Square
- Meetup · Carousell Protection
- New
- ⚠ We encourage buyers to compare prices of similar listings and check retail prices before buying protective masks

This rapid test kit is used to detect the Novel Corona Virus-19 antibody in your serum / plasma / whole blood qualitatively.

\$10 per piece
25 pieces per box
MOQ: 40 boxes

Delivery available worldwide, preferably within South East Asia.

Personalized white labelling also can be arranged for large order quantities.

High in demand in several countries at the moment. Available while stocks last!

Shipment will arrive fast, within 3-5 days after payment has been processed and completed.

Good For Corona Virus

Option1 : Lutein Power (6 months)

NutriGarden

Milk Thistle Power for Liver

Milk Thistle + 6 types of vitamins + 2 types of minerals

Upgrade with 9 functionalities!

건강 기능식품 GMP

간에는 역시 뉴트리가든 **밀크시슬파워**

MILK THISTLE

- 밀크시슬추출물
간 건강에 도움을 줄 수 있음
- 9종 복합 기능성 건강기능식품

밀크시슬추출물, 비타민B1, 비타민B2, 니아신, 판토텐산, 비타민B6, 엽산, 아연, 셀레늄 제형

건강기능식품 / 900 mg x 30정(2.7 g)

Background image shows a human torso with the liver highlighted in red, and a blister pack of yellow capsules.

Good For Corona Virus

NutriGarden

Our family, charging with green energy.

HAWAIIAN SPIRULINA

HAWAIIAN SPIRULINA

Spirulina 1,000mg a day

건강 기능식품

- Raw material 100% from Hawaii
- Intake once a day
- Imported finished product
- 14 mg of chlorophyll per day

It can help anti-oxidation.

It can help skin health.

NutriGarden **HAWAIIAN SPIRULINA** **하와이안 스피루리나**

Spirulina 1,000mg a day

Background image shows a scenic view of a lake and mountains, with a bottle of the product in the foreground.

[Firson] Sanitizer

500 ml

Kills 99.9%

Guaranteed !!

Kills 99.9% Bacteria



479 items sold | 83 (95%)

Share Report Review

Group Buy

Dr.Person Sanitizer 500ML Made in Korea Coronavirus Prevention

Group Buy Price Deal is ON! ~~S\$39.90~~ **S\$25.9**

28 Purchased | 6 day 9:1: [See more Groupbuy](#)

Benefits 0% Interest Instalment Plan

Shipping From: South Korea
 Shipping To: Singapore
 Shipping Rate: **Express** Qprime - **S\$1.99**
Free shipping over S\$80.00

Quantity Available: 10Qty every 1 day

Item Type View All

Type: Please select.

Free 60ml First 200 Only Please select.

[Go Group Buy](#) [Wish List](#)



READY STOCKS



LOCALLY TESTED

Advertisement

[Chat](#) [Make Offer](#)

S\$19.90 [Share](#) [Like](#)

G3 Hand Sanitizer (widely used in schools and Hospitals)

- Hougang MRT Station (NE14)
- Meetup
- New
- We encourage buyers to read reviews, and chat with sellers before buying any product. Always verify before buying, especially for products making health claims

Anti Coronavirus Locally Tested And Approved , widely used in schools and Hospitals

60ml spray on bottle [read more](#)

1 week ago In [Hand & Foot Care](#)

- G3 60ml spray on
- Others