



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY  
PRESS RELEASE  
19 MARCH 2020**

## **HSA TOOK DOWN MORE THAN 2,500 LISTINGS OF ADULTERATED PRODUCTS OR PRODUCTS MAKING FALSE OR MISLEADING HEALTH CLAIMS FROM E-COMMERCE PLATFORMS DURING INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has removed more than 2,500 listings of adulterated products or products making false or misleading health claims from local e-commerce platforms during Operation Pangea, an Internet-based enforcement action coordinated by INTERPOL between 3 and 10 March 2020. During this week, HSA intensified its surveillance online to detect and disrupt the sale of illegal health products. Adulterated lifestyle products such as weight loss pills, sexual enhancement medicines and cosmetic products comprised more than 32% of the listings taken down.

2 This year, HSA also detected a significant number of product listings claiming to prevent or treat COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019). These fraudulent products included health supplements, herbs, traditional medicines and “clip-on” products. The false and misleading claims made include “strengthen the immune system against the coronavirus” or “prevent and cure coronavirus”. There is currently no evidence that such products can prevent or treat COVID-19. HSA also detected rapid test kits which claimed to be able to diagnose COVID-19 within 10 minutes. Testing for COVID-19 can only be done by clinical laboratories or medical professionals in clinics and hospitals to ensure an accurate test result and diagnosis. Product listings with false claims related to COVID-19 made up about half the total number of listings taken down by HSA. Such fraudulent claims are not allowed and HSA will take actions against the sellers of these products.

### **FINDINGS FROM INTENSIFIED ONLINE SURVEILLANCE**

3 HSA’s surveillance and investigations also found that there were sellers who attempted to evade detection by both HSA and the e-commerce platform administrators. They did this by advertising their products as common household brands of soaps and shampoos when they were in fact medicinal products and creams. From 1 January to 10 March 2020, more than 1,100 unique seller accounts have been issued warnings on the regulatory requirements that they have to comply with.

4 Additionally, HSA's investigations uncovered that some individuals were selling their leftovers or unused health products such as steroid creams, antibiotic creams and painkillers. Many of these individuals were first-time sellers who claimed that they were unaware that such products are prescription medicines that can only be prescribed by doctors. HSA would like to remind everyone that the sale of prescription medicines by individuals is an offence under the Health Products Act.

5 Please refer to **Annex A** for some examples of listings of adulterated products and products making false or misleading claims that were taken down by HSA.

## **CONSUMER ADVISORY**

6 Members of the public are advised:

- Exercise caution when buying health products online. They may be cheaper and appear to offer better value, but the lower price could be due to unsafe or inferior ingredients, poor manufacturing methods and substandard or unhygienic storage conditions. They could also be adulterated with harmful or banned ingredients.
- Some sellers may claim that their products have been developed based on "scientific studies" or "evidence". Such claims often lack a robust scientific basis and cannot be verified.
- There is currently no evidence that any health supplement, Chinese proprietary medicine, traditional medicine, herbs or "clip-on" product can boost the immune system specifically to help prevent, protect against or treat COVID-19. There is also no evidence that test kits bought online can detect the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 accurately within minutes. Consumers who use them may end up with a false sense of security and delay seeking treatment if they feel unwell. For more information, consumers can refer to the [advisory on products claiming to prevent or treat COVID-19](#).
- When buying health products online, buy them from websites with an established retail presence in Singapore.

## **ADVISORY TO SELLERS AND SUPPLIERS**

7 HSA takes a serious view against those engaged in the sale and supply of health products that are adulterated or carry misleading claims, and will take strong enforcement action against such persons. Anyone who supplies such health products

is liable to prosecution and if convicted, may be imprisoned for up to 3 years and/or fined up to \$100,000.

8 Members of the public who encounter illegal, counterfeit or other suspicious health products are encouraged to contact the Enforcement Branch of HSA at Tel: 68663485 or email: [hsa\\_is@hsa.gov.sg](mailto:hsa_is@hsa.gov.sg).

## **OPERATION PANGEA**

9 HSA has participated in this global week of action coordinated by INTERPOL for 13 consecutive years. 90 countries took part in this year's Operation Pangea.

## **HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY SINGAPORE 19 MARCH 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](https://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.

**Examples of listings of adulterated products or products making false or misleading health claims that were taken down by HSA**

Home > Health & Beauty > Bath & Body



Chat Make Offer

**\$15** Share 12

**BN Betamethasone/Fusidic Acid Valerate Cream (Eczema cream)**

- Singapore
- Mailing - 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


Brand new unopened Betamethasone/fucidic acid valerate cream 0.1%/0.2%. 15 grams tube.

Betamethasone cream is a common steroidal cream used for [read more](#)

2 months ago In Bath & Body

Fucibet Others

Home > Health & Beauty > Face & Skin Care



Chat Make Offer

**\$12** Share 4

**Maxi peel exfoliant solution set #1, #2, #3 (15ml)**


- Singapore
- Mailing - Carousell Protection
- New

We encourage buyers to compare prices of similar listings and check retail prices before buying protective masks

Maxi-Peel is the leader in the Exfoliants category, with its complete range of face care products that aim to help women achieve fairer, smoother, and beautifully renewed skin. Over the years, its breakthrough and unique formulation of Tretinoin and Hydroquinone, which is used to treat and prevent mild to severe pimples, was able to build its credibility and loyalty with its consumers due to its effectiveness. Only Maxi-Peel provides potent

3 months ago In Face & Skin Care

Advertisement



[Chat](#)   [Make Offer](#)

S\$27

[Share](#)   [Like](#)

### Ayurveda herbs for Corona Virus

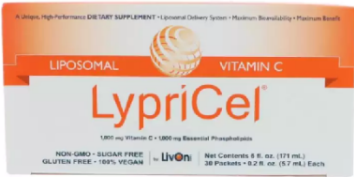
Meetup · Carousell Protection

New

9 types of different Ayurveda herbs made by my self for the Virus Corona Can prevent and take some time to cure.  
Each at \$27  
For assisting Customers  
Special price.

Categories ▾   [LazMall](#)   [RedMart](#)   [Vouchers](#)   [Top Up & eStore](#)

[Health](#)   [Food Supplement](#)   [Well Being](#)   [Anti-Aging](#)   LivOn Laboratories LypriCel Liposomal Vitamin C, 1000g 30 Servings, High Bioavailability, Vegan, USA, EXP 07/



### LivOn Laboratories LypriCel Liposomal Vitamin C, 1000g 30 Servings, High Bioavailability, Vegan, USA, EXP 07/21, Strengthens Immune System Against Corona Virus!

★★★★★ 6 Ratings

Brand: [LypriCel](#)   [More Food Supplement from LypriCel](#)

\$79.99

~~\$99.99~~ -20%

Promotions   Min. spend \$75.00 ⚡

**Delivery Options**

- Standard 4 - 6 day(s)
- Free Delivery with Collectic local parcel (Subject to ave)

**Return & Warranty**

- 7 days return to seller  
Change of mind is not applicabl
- Warranty not available

Quantity   -   1   +

[Buy Now](#)   [Add to Cart](#)

Positive Seller Rating	Ship on Time
100%	100%



Advertisement

Chat

Make Offer

**S\$0**

Share Like

### Health products

Sengkang MRT/LRT Interchange (NE16/STC)

Meetup - Carousell Protection

New

Fountain Of Life

Take 5 drops daily to boost your immune system.

Perfect source of antioxidants

Every drop contains antioxidants to fight free radicals in your body. Prevent COVID-19 with this immune system booster.

A high end product from Canada

10 drops = 1800 cups of Apple worth of lignans

Offers levels of protection against cancer, diabetes and healthier heart.

#COVID-19 #corona #virus #health # product #fountainoflife #antioxidant

21 hours ago In Everything Else



Advertisement

Chat

Make Offer

**S\$1**

Share 1 Like

### Curcumin, Tumeric, Kunyit - Combat and protect yourself from Covid-19 Corona virus

Singapore / Singapura / 新加坡 / சிங்கப்பூர் (Singapore)

Meetup - Carousell Protection

New

The ingredient that is in AG Cera! 🌿🌿🌿🌿

The compound in turmeric known as curcumin holds a plethora of benefits.

Washing your hands and keeping away from high risk areas is the best way to stay safe however there are some immune-boosting foods that could help! - AG Cera! 🍌🍌🍌🍌

Combat and protect yourself from Covid-19!

CURCUMIN

Curcumin is the most active ingredient found in spice turmeric, and





Advertisement

Chat

Make Offer

S\$0

Share 2

### Shiruto help immune system to againts Coronavirus

Sembawang MRT Station (NS11)

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

外行人，只知道抢口罩  
内行人都在注重提高【免疫力】  
这句话说得很有道理哦！  
自身免疫力是对抗病毒最好的良药  
多喝SHIRUTO — Vitamins of Immunity  
有效提升身体免疫力和抗菌功效。

SHIRUTO — Vitamins of Immunity  
是免疫系统的救星，是每个家庭必备的应急品！能有效的：  
~ 预防 ~ 抑制 ~ 杀灭 ~



Chat

Make Offer

S\$1

Share 3

### Covid-19 Rapid Test Kit ( Coronavirus)

Raffles Place MRT Interchange (EW14/NS26)

Meetup

New

- \$300 ( minimum order 10 pcs, \$30.00 per pc)  
- \$550 per box (20 pcs)

Please note: Our shipment is on our way. We are pending approval from IMR, [read more](#)

Yesterday In Health Monitors & Gadget s