

Merck Canada announces expanded support for Canadian communities, patients and health care workers affected by COVID-19

[Merck Canada](#) announces its commitment of \$500,000 to support those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This announcement includes \$100,000 previously committed by Merck Canada to supply personal protective equipment to front line health care workers across Canada. The relief efforts are part of Merck Canada's COVID-19 Community Support Plan and align to the company's broader corporate social responsibility approach.

"We are grateful for those who are going above and beyond to help affected patients and communities, especially front-line workers, during the extraordinary challenge of COVID-19. As a company dedicated to saving and improving lives, Merck Canada recognizes that we have a special responsibility to help our communities, and our Community Support Plan is designed to do just this," said AnnA Van Acker, President and Managing Director, Merck Canada. "We are extremely proud of the many ways that our employees are helping through volunteering services or personal donations."

Merck Canada has identified four areas where the company feels it can have the most impact:

- Supporting front line health care professionals and pharmacists across the country, including a donation of \$100,000 for the purchase of critical personal protective equipment (PPE). This donation is managed by [Innovative Medicines Canada](#), who is working hand in hand with the Public Health Agency of Canada to ensure appropriate distribution of PPEs across the country where needed. As of today, this initiative has enabled the delivery of N95 masks to front line hospital workers as well as the purchase of surgical masks for distribution to Canadian pharmacists.
- Donations that support communities and vulnerable populations in Canada, including Food Banks Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, Health Partners International of Canada, Centraide of Greater Montreal/United Way, and Merck for Mothers Canada. Merck Canada has committed approximately \$200,000 to support various organizations across Canada to date.
- Supporting patient associations through sponsorship of patient programs totalling \$200,000 to ensure continuance of care for cancer patients, including support for diagnosis and treatment in a COVID-19 environment in a timely and ethical manner.
- Encouraging employees to give back and support their communities. This includes allowing medically trained employees to volunteer their time to aid in our healthcare system where needed.

The company is fully committed to contribute to the COVID-19 fight by focusing on the health and safety of its employees, by ensuring that supply of medicines and vaccines reach patients timely, including those enrolled in our clinical trials, by contributing scientific expertise to the development of antiviral approaches, and by supporting healthcare providers and the communities in which they serve.



About Merck Canada

For more than 125 years, Merck, known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases in pursuit of our mission to save and improve lives. We demonstrate our commitment to patients and population health by increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Today, Merck continues to be at the forefront of research to prevent and treat diseases that threaten people and animals — including cancer, infectious diseases such as HIV and Ebola, and emerging animal diseases — as we aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world.