



FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG
ADMINISTRATION



WARNING LETTER

Date: June 25, 2020

TO: info@curativabay.com – William J. Maher, Curativa Bay Corporation
4707 140th Avenue N, Suite 210
Clearwater, FL 33762

RE: Unapproved and Misbranded Products Related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

This is to advise you that the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) reviewed your website at the Internet address <https://www.curativabay.com> on June 16, 2020 and June 22, 2020, respectively. We also reviewed your social media website at the Internet address www.facebook.com/curativabay where you direct consumers to your website, <https://www.curativabay.com>, to purchase your products. The FDA has observed that your website offers Advanced Hypochlorous Skin Spray, a topical hypochlorous acid-containing product, for sale in the United States and that this product is intended to mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19¹ in people. Based on our review, this product is an unapproved new drug sold in violation of section 505(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), 21 U.S.C. § 355(a). Furthermore, this product is a misbranded drug under section 502 of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. § 352. The introduction or delivery for introduction of these products into interstate commerce is prohibited under sections 301(a) and (d) of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. § 331(a) and (d).

There is currently a global outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus that has been named “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2” (SARS-CoV-2). The disease caused by the virus has been named “Coronavirus Disease 2019” (COVID-19). On January 31, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a declaration of a public health emergency related to COVID-19 and mobilized the Operating Divisions of HHS.² In addition, on March 13, 2020, the President declared a national emergency in response to COVID-19.³ Therefore, FDA is taking urgent measures to protect consumers from certain products that, without approval or authorization by FDA, claim to mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19 in people. As described below, you sell products that are intended to mitigate, prevent, treat, diagnose, or cure COVID-19 in people. We request that you take immediate action to cease the sale of such unapproved and unauthorized products for the mitigation, prevention, treatment, diagnosis, or cure of COVID-19.

¹ As explained in the next paragraph, there is currently an outbreak of a respiratory disease named “Coronavirus Disease 2019” (COVID-19).

² Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M Azar, Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists. Jan. 31, 2020. (Accessible at <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/2019-nCoV.aspx>). The declaration was renewed for another 90 days on April 21, 2020. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar II, Renewal of Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists. April 21, 2020. (Accessible at <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/covid19-21apr2020.aspx>). Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex M. Azar II, Renewal of Determination that a Public Health Emergency Exists. April 21, 2020. (Accessible at <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/covid19-21apr2020.aspx>).

³ President Donald J. Trump, Proclamation on Declaring a National Emergency Concerning the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Mar. 13, 2020. (Accessible at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-novel-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-outbreak/>).

Some examples of the claims on your social media website that establish the intended use of your product and misleadingly represents it as safe and/or effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 include:

- “Are you worried about viruses that are going around right now especially the Coronavirus?? . . . Why not take precautions Spray Curativa base Hypochlorous Skin Spray around your face and eyes and hands as many times as you need to during the day and this will provide a good extra line of protection against many things that we all fear today . . . #NaturalHypochlorousAcid #HoclSkinSpray #AdvancedHypochlorousSkinSpray” [from a June 3, 2020 posting on your Facebook social media page at www.facebook.com/curativabay/]
- “‘Clearwater Company Saw Demand for Hypochlorous Acid Product Spike as Coronavirus Spread.’ ‘A Clearwater company saw sales for its advanced ypochlorousH [sic] skin spray skyrocket from 120 bottles a month to 20,000 in March, and it appears COVID-19 may be the reason.’ . . . #NaturalHypochlorousAcid #HoclSkinSpray #AdvancedHypochlorousSkinSpray . . . #CoronavirusNews #Covid19News” [from a May 21, 2020 posting on your Facebook social media page at www.facebook.com/curativabay/]
- “Hi there! Are you worried about viruses that are going around right now especially the Coronavirus? why not take precautions spray curativa base hypochlorous skin spray around your face and eyes and hands as many times as you need to during the day and this will provide a good extra line of protection against many things that we all fear today. . . .#Kill bacteria and viruses . . . #Coronavirus” [from a March 4, 2020 posting on your Facebook social media page at www.facebook.com/curativabay/]

You should take immediate action to correct the violations cited in this letter. This letter is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of violations that exist in connection with your products or operations. It is your responsibility to ensure that the products you sell are in compliance with the FD&C Act and FDA's implementing regulations. We advise you to review your websites, product labels, and other labeling and promotional materials to ensure that you are not misleadingly representing your products as safe and effective for a COVID-19-related use for which they have not been approved by FDA and that you do not make claims that misbrand the products in violation of the FD&C Act. **Within 48 hours, please send an email to COVID-19-Task-Force-CDER@fda.hhs.gov** describing the specific steps you have taken to correct these violations. Include an explanation of each step being taken to prevent the recurrence of violations, as well as copies of related documentation. Failure to immediately correct the violations cited in this letter may result in legal action, including, without limitation, seizure and injunction.

FDA is advising consumers not to purchase or use certain products that have not been approved, cleared, or authorized by FDA and that are being misleadingly represented as safe and/or effective for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Your firm will be added to a published list on FDA's website of firms and websites that have received warning letters from FDA concerning the sale or distribution of COVID-19 related products in violation of the FD&C Act. This list can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/consumers/health-fraud-scams/fraudulent-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-products>. Once you have taken corrective actions to cease the sale of your unapproved and unauthorized product for the mitigation, prevention, treatment, diagnosis, or cure of COVID-19, and such actions have been confirmed by the FDA, the published list will be updated to indicate that your firm has taken appropriate corrective action.

If you cannot complete corrective action within 48 hours, state the reason for the delay and the time within which you will complete the corrections. If you believe that your product is not in violation of the FD&C Act, include your reasoning and any supporting information for our consideration.

If you are not located in the United States, please note that products that appear to be misbranded or

unapproved new drugs are subject to detention and refusal of admission if they are offered for importation into the United States. We may advise the appropriate regulatory officials in the country from which you operate that FDA considers your product referenced above to be an unapproved and misbranded product that cannot be legally sold to consumers in the United States.

Please direct any inquiries to FDA at COVID-19-Task-Force-CDER@fda.hhs.gov.

In addition, it is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. 41 et seq., to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence, including, when appropriate, well-controlled human clinical studies, substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist for the product identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such product are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims. Violations of the FTC Act may result in legal action seeking a Federal District Court injunction and an order may require that you pay back money to consumers. Within 48 hours, please send an email to Richard Cleland, Assistant Director of the FTC's Division of Advertising Practices, via electronic mail at rcleland@ftc.gov describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Mr. Cleland at 202-326-3088.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Ashley
Director
Office of Compliance
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Food and Drug Administration

Sincerely,

Serena Viswanathan
Acting Associate Director
Division of Advertising Practices
Federal Trade Commission