

For Immediate Release: 1st April 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE USAGE OF ANTAH PHARMA'S DEFEND TAG AGAINST COVID-19 INFECTIONS

In light of the recent articles both reported by the media and circulating online, Antah Pharma would like to clarify that our product, Defend tag **DOES NOT** claim to prevent the spread of COVID-19 nor is it a preventive device against potential contraction of COVID-19. Reports on social media that claim otherwise are misleading and untrue.

Our product Defend tag utilises innovative technology combined with the proven efficacy of chlorine dioxide as an antimicrobial agent, making it effective against many known viruses and bacteriaⁱ. Defend tag contains 5g of sodium chlorite in a sachet that releases standardised chlorine dioxide gas.

Due to its strong antiviral effectⁱⁱ, chlorine dioxide is often used to sterilise medical and laboratory equipment, surfaces, rooms and tools. It can also be used as an oxidiser or disinfectant to kill pathogenic microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria and viruses. This chemical also works well in preventing and removing bio film.ⁱⁱⁱ

In fact, chlorine dioxide is used to disinfect drinking water around the world. According to the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, chlorine dioxide is added to drinking water to protect people from harmful bacteria and other microorganisms. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes chlorine dioxide use as a drinking water disinfectant, and it is included in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guidelines for drinking-water quality (GDWQ).^{iv}

In Japan, chlorine dioxide is considered a general disinfectant product and its use is regulated by the Hatukaichi Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Japan Chlorine Dioxide Industry Association. Our Defend tag is certified by the Chamber to be used as chlorine dioxide generating powder to sterilise viruses and germs.

Although Defend tag has been devised to provide an extra level of protection against airborne microbes, it is not a substitute for diligent personal hygiene such as washing hands with soap and water and using sanitizers and face masks whenever necessary.

As COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus, scientists around the world are still conducting extensive research to understand the virus' characteristics. It is recommended to adhere to the guidelines prescribed by our Ministry of Health (MoH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), and to practise good personal hygiene and social distancing.

Remember to stay safe and let us help our front liners flatten the curve. #kitajagakita #JustStayAtHome
For more information on Defend tag, please contact Antah Pharma Sdn Bhd at enquiry@ahcg.com.my

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ⁱ *Antiviral Effect of Chlorine Dioxide against Influenza Virus and Its Application for Infection Control*

Takanori Miura* and Takashi Shibata, Taiko Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, 3-34-14 Uchihonmachi, Suita, Osaka, 564-0032 Japan, *The Open Antimicrobial Agents Journal*, 2010, 2, 71-78.

ii *Effect of chlorine dioxide gas of extremely low concentration on absenteeism of schoolchildren*

Norio Ogata* and Takashi Shibata, Taiko Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Osaka, Japan, *International Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences Vol. 1(7) pp. 288-289, July 2009.*

iii Chlorine dioxide as a disinfectant. (n.d.). *Water Treatment and Purification - Lenntech.*

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iv *Chlorine dioxide | Use, benefits, and chemical safety facts.* (2020, March 12). *ChemicalSafetyFacts.org.*

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