

## **CAUTION: Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine**

Chloroquine (CQ) and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) are used to treat and prevent malaria (an infection carried by mosquitos in certain tropical/warm areas). They are also used to treat other diseases, like lupus and rheumatoid arthritis. For these conditions, these medicines are proven to work and safe to take as prescribed by your practitioner.

Recently, some doctors started using these medicines to treat patients who were very sick with the coronavirus (COVID-19). These medicines may or may not help coronavirus patients get better faster. No one knows for sure yet. But it is easy to overdose on these medicines. They can cause serious side effects, including death. One or two tablets of these medicines can cause death in a small child. It is easy for adults to overdose on them as well.

CQ and HCQ can cause nausea, diarrhea, stomach upset, dizziness, vision changes, skin problems, hearing loss, altered mental status (problems with your ability to think), seizures, decreased blood pressure, low potassium levels, irregular heartbeats, and death.

Although CQ and HCQ may help very sick coronavirus patients, these medicines should not be taken by people with coronavirus with minor symptoms or people who have just been exposed to someone who has the virus. **These medicines can be very dangerous.** At this time, only patients sick in the hospital should be given these medicines for coronavirus infection under the careful watch of the doctors and nurses. Call 911 immediately if you think you or someone you know have taken too much CQ or HCQ.