

We are writing to inform you that on 8 April 2020, the Commission adopted *Guidelines on the optimal and rational supply of medicines to avoid shortages during the COVID-19 outbreak* (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.CI.2020.116.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2020:116:TOC>).

The guidelines stress the need for national authorities to:

Show solidarity through the lifting of export bans and restriction, ensuring that essential medicines are available in hospitals and pharmacies and that national stockpiling is avoided. National authorities should also fight misinformation that could lead to unnecessary stockpiling due to panic buying.

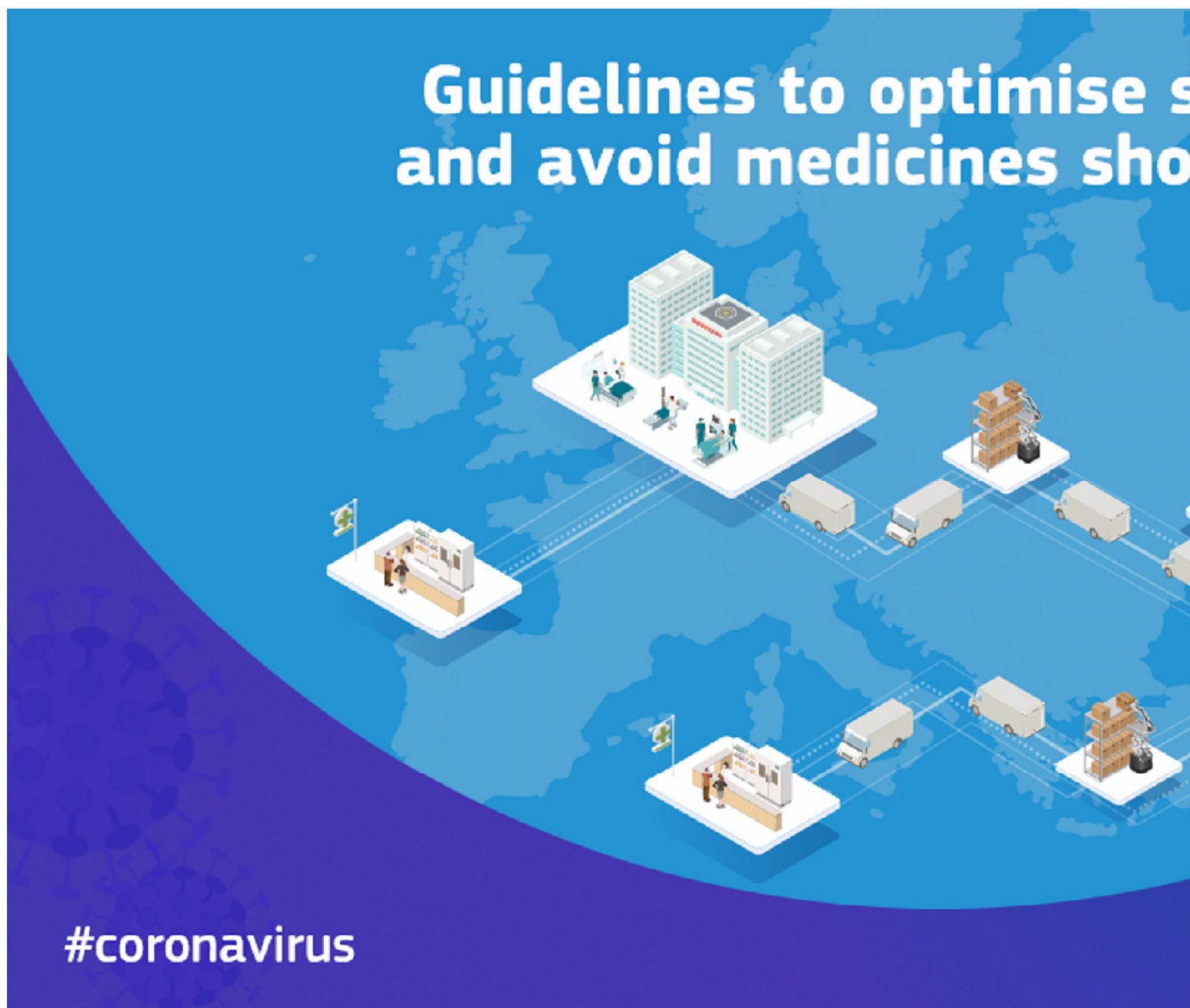
Ensure supply by increasing and reorganising production through the monitoring of stocks and production capacities, the coordination of joint efforts by industry and implementing demand support and procurement initiatives to encourage supply. Where Member States need to support industry increasing their manufacturing capacity through fiscal incentives and state aid and implement regulatory flexibility, the Commission stands ready to provide guidance and legal certainty..

Promote the optimal use of medicines in hospitals, in particular by adapting existing hospital protocols or establishing new validated protocols to prevent the overuse of medicines, as well as providing the possibility to extend the expiry dates of medicines.

Optimise sales in community pharmacies to avoid hoarding through the introduction of restrictions on sales for medicines at risk of shortages and temporarily considering the limitation of online sales of essential medicines.

Please also see a video message from Commission President von der Leyen (<https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/video/I-188695>) and the accompanying press material (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_622 and attached factsheet and visual).

Guidelines to optimise supply and avoid medicines shortages



#coronavirus

Please do not hesitate to contact DG SANTE B4 ([5.1.5 @ec.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.5@ec.europa.eu)) if you have any questions.

With kind regards,

Secretariat B4
5.1.2e



European Commission

Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety – DG SANTE
Unit B4 – Medical products: quality, safety, innovation
101 rue Froissart / B-1049 Brussels/Belgium

This email was prepared by DG SANTE Unit B4 and does not commit the European Commission. Only the Court of Justice of the European Union is competent to authoritatively interpret Union law.

