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Strang shuts down question about controversial COVID-19 drug

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Victoria Walton
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Dr. Robert Strang (Photo courtesy of Communications Nova Scotia)

On Sunday afternoon during Nova Scotia's COVID-19 update, Dr. Strang took off his metaphorical gloves to address Dr. Oz, hydroxychloroquine, and misinformation.

"Do not believe everything you read just because of the internet," said the Chief Medical Officer of Health. "And certainly do not believe Dr. Oz."

Last week, Oz wrote [an op-ed](#) that claimed the tablet showed "real promise" as a treatment for the novel coronavirus.

The drug is typically used to treat malaria and has not been recommended by the World Health Organization or other health regulators as a COVID-19 treatment.

"WHO is concerned by reports of individuals self-medicating with chloroquine and causing themselves serious harm," reads [a statement](#) on the organization's website.

Strang said there are people in his office who are working on new treatments, but that doesn't necessarily include hydroxychloroquine (also known as HCQ).

"One of my colleagues, Dr. Lisa Barrett, infectious disease physician, is leading a clinical trial, a Nova Scotia component of national work on a number of potential therapeutic options," he told the public.

Strang also said there is "mythology" around the effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine treatment.

"If you look at the evidence, it's not robust at all," he added.

Strang said it's important to trust proven science during the COVID-19 pandemic, not on information from non-credible sources.

"We have to rely on credible, clinical science and clinical evidence to drive us," he said. "And there's so much misinformation out there on the internet."

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Victoria is HalifaxToday.ca's weekend editor and a Halifax-based freelancer. She is originally from Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. [Read more](#)

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