MEDIA RELEASE

Ivermectin is not indicated nor approved by SAHPRA for use in humans

Embargo: Immediate release

Pretoria, 22 December 2020 – Ivermectin has made headlines recently as a so-called "miracle cure" for COVID-19. However, SAHPRA's stance is unambiguous. This drug is not approved by SAHPRA and any attempt to import this drug into the country will be perceived as being unlawful.

Ivermectin is not indicated nor approved by SAHPRA for use in humans. There is no confirmatory data on Ivermectin available as yet for its use in the management of Covd-19 infections. In terms of safety and efficacy, there is no evidence to support the use of ivermectin and we do not have any clinical trial evidence to justify its use.

At present, there is no confirmatory clinical evidence available for the use of Ivermectin in the management of Covd-19 infections.

"SAHPRA is focused on quality, safety and efficacy and its ultimate goal is to protect the health and well-being of all those who live in South Africa. The use of such a drug could potentially lead to harmful effects or even death and SAHPRA is firm on the stance that this medicine is unproven in the management of COVID-19 infections. Any attempt to import this drug will be dealt with by SAHPRA's Regulatory Compliance unit in conjunction with law enforcement agencies such as SAPS and the SIU," indicates CEO of SAHPRA, Dr Boitumelo Semete-Makokotlela.

If you are aware of such transgressions, please contact Mr Deon Poovan, Senior Manager: Inspectorate and Regulatory Compliance on deon.poovan@sahpra.org.za

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About SAHPRA:

SAHPRA is tasked with regulating (monitoring, evaluating, investigating, inspecting and registering) all health products. This includes clinical trials, complementary medicines, medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics (IVDs). Furthermore, SAHPRA has the added responsibility of overseeing radiation control in South Africa. SAHPRA's mandate is outlined in the Medicines and Related Substances Act (Act No 101 of 1965 as amended) as well as the Hazardous Substances Act (Act No 15 of 1973).

SAHPRA has three pillars to ensure that medicines, medical devices and IVDs meet the requisite standards to protect the health and well-being of all who reside in South Africa:

- Safety
- Efficacy
- Quality

It is these three pillars that define the ethos of SAHPRA.