

Communications in a Global Pandemic

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Office of Communications (OCOMM)

CDER | US FDA

Regulatory Education for Industry Annual (REdI) Conference – July 19, 2021

Learning Objectives

- Describe the OCOMM's commitment to transparency
- Outline our roles and responsibilities
- Highlight some of our contributions to public health

Overview

Who We Are and What We Do



Strategic Communication Goals



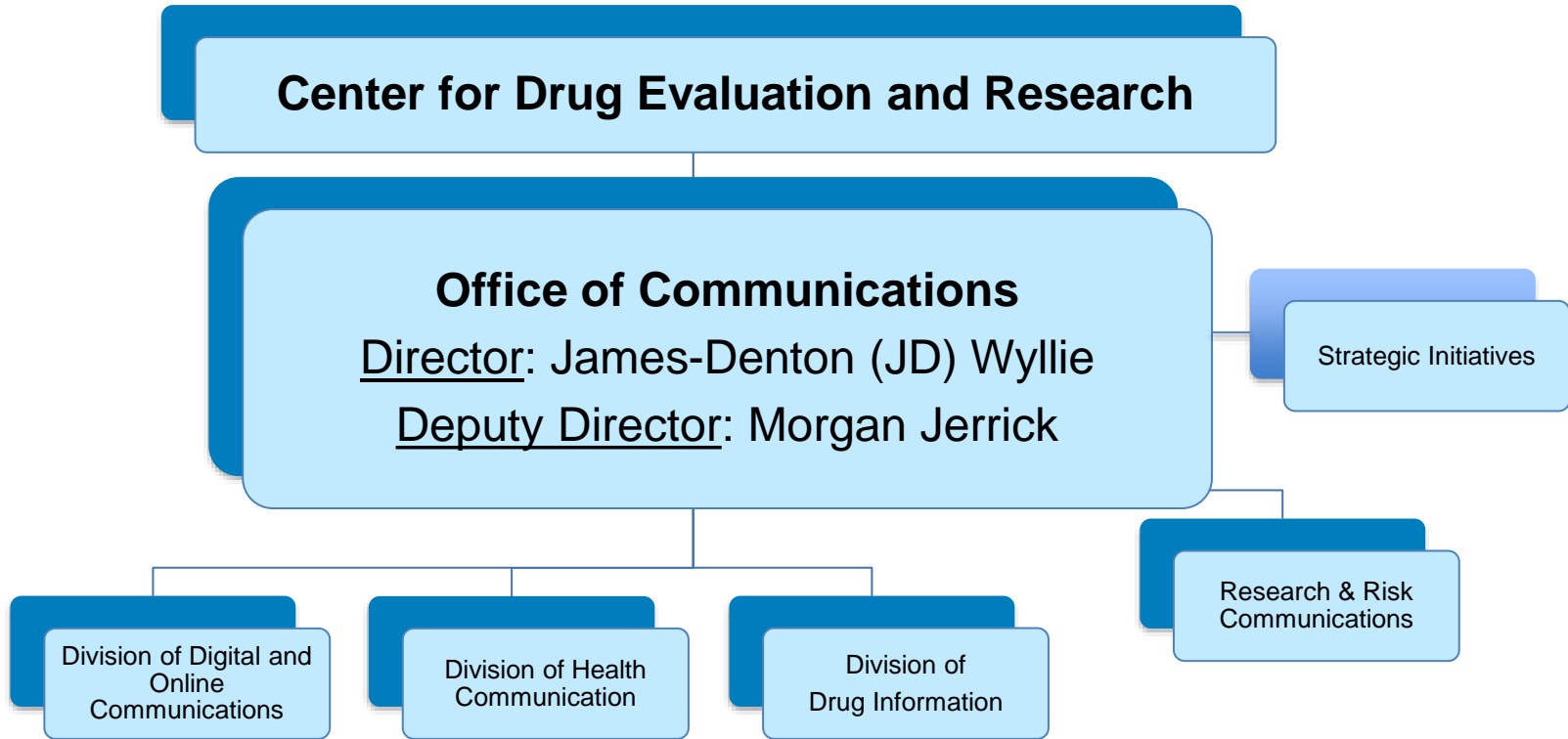
Communication in Action



Path Forward

Who We Are and What We Do

CDER | Office of Communications



What We Do

OCOMM's mission is to provide strategic communication and outreach related to and in support of the center's priorities and initiatives to protect public health.

Strategic Communication Goals

Strategic Communication Goals

1. Contribution to Public Good and Health

2. Building a Cohesive Communications Strategy

3. Demystifying Center Research and Processes

4. Maintaining Transparency/Building Trust

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Contribution to Public Good and Health



FDA publishes guidance to provide answers to frequently asked questions on manufacturing, supply chain, and drug and biological product inspections during #COVID19: go.usa.gov/xfuHE



4:38 PM · Aug 19, 2020 · Twitter Web App

5 Retweets 6 Likes



CDER
SMALL BUSINESS
and INDUSTRY
ASSISTANCE

Watch on YouTube



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Contribution to Public Good and Health



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Today, we are reaffirming our commitment to transparency around the EUA process and sharing some updates on our plan to provide more information about FDA's decisions to issue, revise or revoke EUAs for drugs and biological products, including vaccines. <https://bit.ly/2lLeVl>

Coronavirus Update:

FDA's ongoing commitment to transparency for COVID-19 EUAs



LinkedIn 

92 · 1 Comment



FDA Drug Information
@FDA_Drug_Info

Replying to @FDA_Drug_Info

Find important information about dosing instructions, potential side effects, and drug interactions in the fact sheets available here [📄](#)



Twitter 

Emergency Use Authorization
Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) information, and list of all current EUAs
fda.gov

7:39 PM · Nov 21, 2020 · Twitter Web App

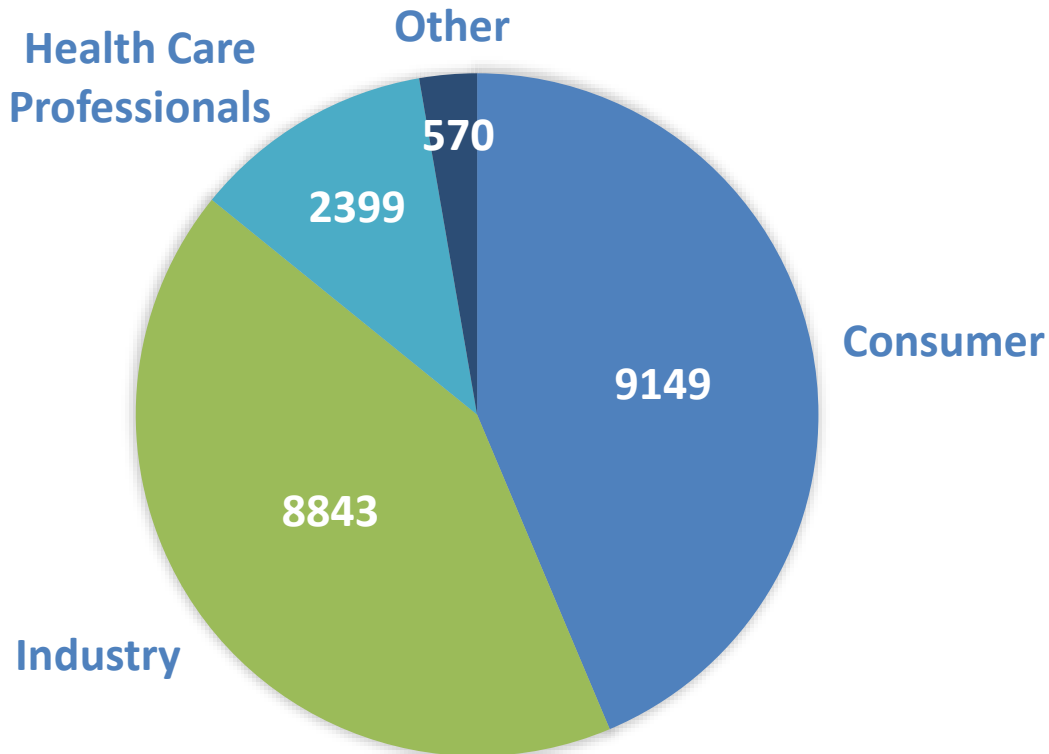
6 Retweets 19 Likes

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Contribution to Public Good and Health



**DRUG-RELATED INQUIRIES
JANUARY 2020 - MARCH 2021**



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Cohesive Communications Strategy



OCOMM served as:

- CDER's Joint Information Center (JIC) leads to coordinate review and clearance of drug-related messages for the Agency
- CDER's Communications representatives on COVID-19 Task Force Teams for sharing and escalating public concerns and sentiment
- JIC Web Team Lead for coordinating review and clearance for web content

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Cohesive Communications Strategy



- Identifying future communications opportunities and challenges
- Ensuring alignment with HHS and FDA messaging
- Collecting stakeholder feedback to inform comms and operational decision making
- Thoughtful engagement with external stakeholders on critical issues

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Cohesive Communications Strategy



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FDA

Demystifying Science and Center Processes



FDA Drug Information
@FDA_Drug_Info

Today, we updated our Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program (CTAP) webpage with new metrics and FAQs. As of July 31, 570+ drug development programs are in the planning stages & 270+ trials have been reviewed by FDA.



Coronavirus Treatment Acceleration Program (CTAP)
CTAP will use every available method to move new treatments to patients as quickly as possible
[fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov)

3:32 PM · Aug 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

11 Retweets · 9 Likes



FDA Drug Information
@FDA_Drug_Info

Learn how independent, in-depth analysis of data from 3 clinical trials supported FDA approval of Veklury (remdesivir) in the latest Spotlight on CDER Science:
go.usa.gov/x77BV



2:08 PM · Nov 25, 2020 · Twitter Web App

5 Retweets · 6 Likes

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Demystifying Science and Center Processes

FDA

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Response to COVID-19

FDA

Timeline: January 1, 2020 – February 1, 2021



COVID-19 Therapeutic Development:

- 600+ drug development programs in planning stages
- 420+ trials reviewed by FDA
- 6 treatments currently authorized for emergency use
- 1 treatment currently approved by FDA
- More than 22 guidance documents for industry related to therapeutic development

Regulatory Flexibility: Proactively issued temporary policies to address the pandemic and provide regulatory flexibility on:

- Certain drugs compounded for hospitalized patients with COVID-19
- Compounding and manufacturing of alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Repackaging or combining Propofol
- Prescription Drug Marketing Act requirements for distributing prescription drug samples
- Drug Supply Chain Security Act requirements



Addressing fraud:

Took action against sellers of **fraudulent products** for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19, and issued more than 100 warning letters



Internet pharmacies:

Issued 14 warning letters to operators of websites that sell unapproved and misbranded COVID-19 products



Hand sanitizer:

Published a list with more than 200 listings of hand sanitizers consumers should not use, including those containing potentially dangerous contaminants



Shortage mitigation activities:

Continued outreach to more than 180 manufacturers relating to manufacturing capacity and supply chain for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 treatments



U.S. Public Health Service Corps deployment:

Approximately 302 CDER Commissioned Corps officers fulfilled 406 deployment requests in support of the COVID-19 mission



Engagement with stakeholders:

CDER fielded 18,798 COVID-19 drug related inquiries from the general public, including health care providers, consumers and manufacturers

For more information, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/drugs>

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Maintaining Transparency | Building Trust

CDER's Work to Meet User Fee Goals During the Pandemic

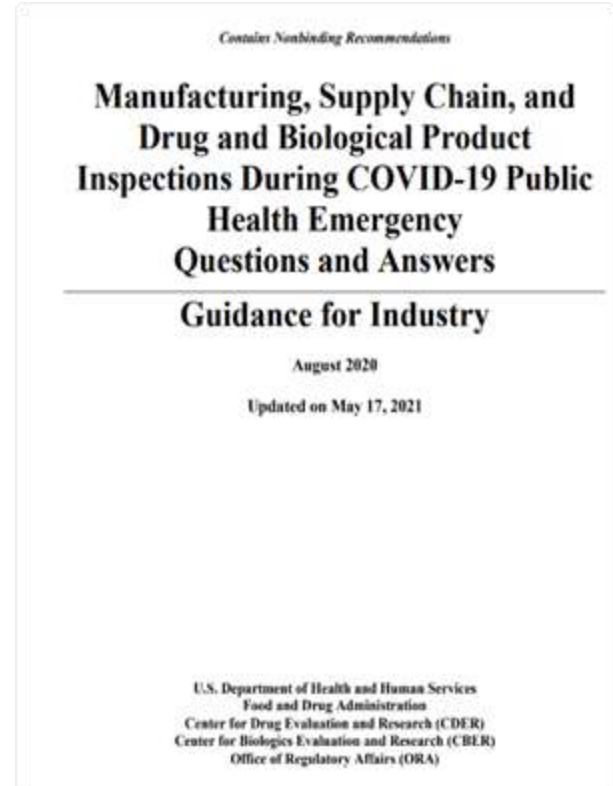
Reduction in Pre-Approval Inspections Needed by Quarter:

58% in FY2020 Q3

64% in FY2020 Q4

56% in FY2021 Q1

48% in FY2021 Q2





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Maintaining Transparency | Building Trust

Posting review documents in a timely manner

EUA Action	Action Date	CDER Review Document
Original authorization	11/21/2020	CDER Review (3 MB)
Revised authorization	2/03/2021	CDER Review (136 KB)
Revised authorization	2/25/2021	CDER Memorandum (52 KB)
Updates to authorized labeling	3/18/2021	CDER Review (70 KB)
Updates to authorized labeling	5/14/2021	CDER Review (83 KB)

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Maintaining Transparency | Building Trust

FDA | CDER | Small Business and Industry Assistance

INDUSTRY NEWS

FDA In Brief: FDA Provides Guidance on Master Protocols for Evaluating Prevention, Treatment Options for COVID-19

The Small Business and Industry Assistance (SBIA) program in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research provides guidance, [education](#) and updates for regulated industry.



Communication in Action Outside of COVID-19 Pandemic



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FDA Drug Information ✓ @FDA_Drug_Info · May 5

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Join us on May 7 at 1PM ET for a [#CDERSBIA](#) webinar to discuss the most common labeling mistakes found in generic drug application, how to avoid them, and other labeling tips!

Register: go.usa.gov/xHrNZ



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6



FDA



Path Forward

Path Forward

Adjustments



- Consider the creative use of social media for more public messaging
- Promote FDA as one-stop shop for information
 - Whether it is a Fact Sheet or webpage, need a space where all information about a topic is placed (in a simple and engaging way)
- Meet with stakeholders when planning communications to ensure alignment
- Diagnose operational successes and failures



Path Forward

Areas for Improvement and Challenges

- Plain language communications for complex and regulatory concepts
- Combatting misinformation
- Using a variety of communication channels to reach niche audiences

Vision Statement

OCOMM's objective is to advance the scientific knowledge and understanding of the regulatory responsibility of the center to ensure the safety, effectiveness and quality of human drugs to various audiences.

Challenge Question #1

OCOMM's roles and responsibilities include all **EXCEPT** which of the following?

- A. Escalation of issues via real-time feedback
- B. Coordinate and centralize multi-center and agency level rollouts
- C. IND Application review
- D. Web communications

Challenge Question #2



JIC is an acronym for which of the following?

- A. Joint Information Center
- B. Joint Intelligence Committee
- C. Joint Industry Council
- D. Joint Implementation Commission



Closing Thought

In the Office of Communications, our top priority is ensuring that our communications play the role they are supposed to in the larger mission of FDA, to serve public health.

