

Serena Viswanathan Associate Director Division of Advertising Practices United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20580

May 27, 2021

CEASE AND DESIST LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO <u>diane@weifasttpatchhawaii.com</u> Diane Kawahara-Jamain

Re: Unsubstantiated claims for Coronavirus prevention and treatment

Dear Ms. Kawahara-Jamain:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/</u> in May 2021. We have also reviewed your social media website at <u>https://www.facebook.com/Wei-Fastt-Patch-Hawaii-1400878430132841/</u> where you direct consumers to your website at <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/</u> to purchase products including Silver Flower capsules and Golden Flower herbal tea. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus prevention or cure claims on your websites include:

• On your website at <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/</u> you state:

"NEW – Coronavirus: Wei Labs Prevention & Treatment[.] While global concern about Coronavirus continues, herbal remedies have increasingly become an avenue for prevention and treatment. Learn what Wei Labs has available, including a case study of positive treatment, at our <u>'Addressing Coronavirus' info page</u> [link to <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/immune-system-support/addressing-coronavirus/]</u> and shop for our new Wei Labs' products (Golden Flower Tea & Silver Flower Capsules) that can support your immune system against the coronavirus at <u>our order page here</u> [link to <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/order-here/#COVID19</u>]."

• On your website at http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/order-here/#COVID19, which is available through the link described above on your homepage, as well as by using your

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website navigation menu to select "ORDER HERE" followed by "ORDER COVID-19 SUPPORT," you state:

"Wei Labs Coronavirus Prevention & Treatment

Golden Flower Herbal Tea[.] This all-natural herbal tea from Wei Labs helps prevent the Coronavirus from infecting individuals through immediate germ removal and immune support....

Silver Flower Capsules[.] This formula addresses individuals who are symptomatic or diagnosed with the Coronavirus who are experiencing mild, moderate, and even severe symptoms. One bottle contains a one week supply. Take 2 capsules 3 times a day...."

• On your website at http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/immune-system-support/addressing-coronavirus/, which is available through the link described above on your homepage, as well as by using your website navigation menu to select "IMMUNITY SUPPORT" followed by "ADDRESSING CORONAVIRUS," you state:

"ADDRESSING CORONAVIRUS

Addressing Coronavirus: Prevention & Treatment

While the death toll continues to rise for Coronavirus, herbal remedies have increasingly become an avenue for prevention and treatment. (The following products are listed at our order page here[)]

WEI LABS – PREVENTION

Golden Flower – Herbal Tea

How does Golden Flower Work?

This all natural herbal tea from Wei Labs helps prevent the Coronavirus from infecting individuals through immediate germ removal and immune support. The ingredients work together to remove germs from the throat, respiratory tract, and heart. At the same [sic], enhancing and supporting the immune system.....

WEI LABS – TREATMENT

Silver Flower

This formula addresses individuals who are symptomatic or diagnosed with the coronavirus who are experiencing mild, moderate, and even severe symptoms.

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How Does Silver Flower Work?

This herbal formula from Wei Labs contains 20 all-natural herbal ingredients that have been used in many clinical trials all over China, including, Wuhan. These ingredients have shown symptom relief and negative test results from 214 coronary pneumonia patients with a *success rate of 90%....*"

• On your website at <u>http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Silver-Flower.pdf</u> you state:

"Silver Formula helps expel Cold Evil Qi in the respiratory tract. It can help alleviate respiratory symptoms caused by acute respiratory tract viral infection and inflammation due to the cold or flu as well as coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The Silver Formula was developed based on the successful clinical results in China using 'Qingfei Paidu Decoction'. The National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine on February 23, 2020 revealed that this herbal formula has more than a 90% effective rate in the treatment of 214 patients who were diagnosed with coronavirus pneumonia.... This report revealed that 'Qingfei Paidu Decoction' was used to treat 214 confirmed coronavirus cases in four pilot provinces including Shanxi, Hebei, Heilongjiang, and Shanxi [sic]. The patients' symptoms included fatigue, fever, cough, sore throat, anorexia, and changes in CT imaging. Statistic data on February 5th showed that within 3 days of treatment (one treatment course) more than 60% of patients had symptom and/or CT imaging improvement. 30% of patients' symptoms become [sic] stabilized without further worsening....

Wei Laboratories' Silver Flower formula is made from the same herbal ingredients from the 'Qingfei Paidu Decoction.' However, the 'Qingfei Paidu Decoction' is a liquid formula, while the Silver Flower is in a capsule form...."

[You made substantially similar statements in a Facebook post on March 21, 2020.].

• On your website at http://weifasttpatchhawaii.com/testimonialscase-studies/ you state:

"A 25-year-old female patient who was a very active restaurant worker, started experiencing flu-like symptoms on March 15th, 2020. The patient had lost her sense of smell and taste. She was tested on the 24th for COVID-19 and was confirmed positive on the 27th.... She was experiencing difficulty and painful breathing, headache, dry cough, congestion, and difficulty speaking.... The patient started taking Silver Flower (three capsules, three times daily) and Golden Flower (one teaspoon, two times daily) from Wei Labs. Within two days, her body aches had improved by 50%. By the third morning, she started to expel chest congestion and after day three, the patient's body aches/pains and congestion were almost

completely gone. All symptoms were resolved by day six however, the patient is finishing their two week course of Silver Flower and will continue taking Golden Flower for further support."

[You posted the same case study to your Facebook page April 10, 2020 and attributed the study to Dr. Anish Bajaj.]

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 et seq., to advertise that a product can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence substantiating that the claims are true at the time they are made. For COVID-19, no such study is currently known to exist for the products identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such products are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence. You must immediately cease making all such claims.

You are also advised to review all other claims for your products and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Violations of the FTC Act may result in legal action seeking a Federal District Court injunction. In addition, pursuant to the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act, Section 1401, Division FF, of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, P.L. 116-260, marketers who make deceptive claims about the treatment, cure, prevention, or mitigation of COVID-19 are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$43,792 per violation and may be required to pay refunds to consumers or provide other relief pursuant to Section 19(b) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 57b(b).

Within 48 hours, please send a message to Richard Cleland, Assistant Director, via electronic mail at rcleland@ftc.gov describing the specific actions you have taken to address the FTC's concerns. If you have any questions regarding compliance with the FTC Act, please contact Richard Cleland at 202-326-3088.

Very truly yours,

SERENA VISWANATHAN VISWANATHAN Date: 2021.05.27 16:06:24 -04'00'

Serena Viswanathan Associate Director Division of Advertising Practices

cc: Facebook via email to consumerpolicy@fb.com