

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

Dama J. Brown, Regional Director Federal Trade Commission – Southwest Region 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2150 Dallas, Texas 75201

May 21, 2020

WARNING LETTER

Via U.S. Mail and Email to: questions@evergreennaturopathic.com

Evergreen Naturopathic 316 West Boone Avenue, Suite 777 Spokane, Washington 99201

Re: Unsubstantiated Claims for Coronavirus Prevention and Treatment

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at http://evergreennaturopathic.com on May 13, 2020. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products prevent or treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Some examples of Coronavirus prevention or treatment claims on your website include the following representations:

- On a page on your website titled "EVERGREEN NATUROPATHIC | Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQ," you claim: "Here at Evergreen Naturopathic, we offer our patients personalized herbal tinctures to directly confront the viral infections that are most prevalent throughout the year while strengthening and supporting both the immune system and the sensitive tissues that are most susceptible to these infections. Our <u>Anti-Viral Tincture</u> provides a combination of botanicals that potently defend human cells against viral attacks and modulate/regulate the immune response to support the various facets of the immune system while helping to reduce the severity of symptoms."
- On multiple pages on your website, including on a page titled "Evergreen Naturopathic **Announcement**," you claim: "As the news surrounding COVID-19 continues to change rapidly, We at Evergreen Naturopathic are doing everything in our power to ensure we... continue to provide you with the

Evergreen Naturopathic May 20, 2020 Page 2

continued care you deserve and expect during this trying time.... If you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness, please contact us so we may assist in providing support and treatment to aid in your recovery. Please know that Naturopathic medicine is uniquely positioned to help treat this viral outbreak. Naturopathic medicine has numerous antiviral, respiratory and immune supportive treatments to aid in the prevention and treatment of this disease."

It is unlawful under the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 41 *et seq.*, to advertise that a product or service can prevent, treat, or cure human disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence, including, when appropriate, well-controlled human clinical studies, 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 product identified above. Thus, any coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such product 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 or services and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to Assistant Director Jim Elliott via electronic mail at jelliott@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 Reid Tepfer at rtepfer@ftc.gov.

Very truly yours,

Dama J. Brown Regional Director, Southwest Region Federal Trade Commission