

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

1999 Bryan St., Ste. 2150 Dallas, Texas 75201

June 2, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO info@theremedyroom.com

The Remedy Room 1224 St. Charles Avenue, Suite 1C New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Re: Unsubstantiated Claims for Coronavirus Prevention or Treatment

To Whom It May Concern,

This is to advise you that FTC staff has reviewed your website at <u>https://theremedyroom.com/</u>, as well as your social media postings on Facebook (<u>https://www.facebook.com/remedyroomnola/</u>), on May 16 and 25, 2020. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products or services treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

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

- In a series of approximately 30 articles posted between April 4 and May 13, 2020, that are accessible from an option in your website navigation menu that has been titled "COVID-19" and "Virus Resources," you claim among other things:
 - In marketing materials titled "Vitamin C and Immune Function," that "Supplementing Vitamin C is imperative for both prevention and treatment of respiratory and systemic infections. At The Remedy Room, we offer IV Vitamin C in New Orleans and Metairie, but taking high quality oral supplements is important if you don't have access to infusions. Taking 500 mg-1,000 mg of Vitamin C once or twice daily as a preventative measure is prudent, and when getting sick, up to 1,000 mg of Vitamin C every 2-4 hours initially is recommended to help the immune system fight a virus.... For high quality vitamin C supplements available for shipping across the US, visit our <u>online store</u> [link to electronic storefront]."

- In marketing materials titled "10x Risk of Death with Low Vitamin D," you post an article titled "Vitamin D supplementation could possibly improve clinical outcomes of patients infected with Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-2019)" while claiming that "[i]ncreased Vitamin D levels could either improve clinical outcomes or mitigate worst outcomes, while a decrease in Vitamin D levels could worsen clinical outcomes. This is yet another study confirming what we know to be true- that Vitamin D plays a critical role in supporting the immune system's ability to fight off viruses. At The Remedy Room we support your Vitamin D by checking labs and offering Injections and/or high quality oral supplements."
- In marketing materials titled "Mother Gets Glutathione Recovers," you post a link to an article titled, "New York mom with coronavirus saved by medical-student son's quick thinking" [https://nypost.com/2020/05/09/new-york-mom-with-coronavirus-saved-by-medical-student-son/] about a person who was "desperately ill with the coronavirus" purportedly being "saved" by glutathione supplementation. You claim, "[t]his incident is similar to what we see at The Remedy Room every day. We offer multiple Infusions with glutathione in them, as well as high quality over the counter glutathione supplements (available at our online store [https://remedyroom.square.site/]– we ship across the US)."
- In marketing materials titled "Glutathione And Reduction Of Inflammation," you post a link to an article titled, "Endogenous deficiency of glutathione as the most likely cause of serious manifestations and death in patients with the novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19): a hypothesis based on literature data and own observations,"

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340917045_Endogenous_deficiency_of _glutathione_as_the_most_likely_cause_of_serious_manifestations_and_death_in _patients_with_the_novel_coronavirus_infection_COVID-

19_a_hypothesis_based_on_literature_data_and_ow] and claim that an academic "proposes that glutathione deficiency a significant cause for the serious manifestation and death in the virus infected patients . . . At The Remedy Room, we are huge proponents of supporting glutathione levels to aid the body's natural ability to deal with oxidative damage, and offer IV and oral glutathione replacement."

In marketing materials titled "Rationale For Vitamin C Treatment of Viruses," you post an article titled "Rationale for Vitamin C Treatment of COVID-19 and Other Viruses" while advising that "The Remedy Room has been using nutritional medicine for many years and believes strongly in the power of giving the body the tools it needs to heal, especially in a situation like we're in today. Vitamin C is SAFE, NON-TOXIC, and EFFECTIVE. We would be happy to discuss this report with you and/or to answer any questions. Please reach out to info@theremedyroom.com or through any of our social channels @remedyroomnola. Finally, If you are a physician or know someone who is interested in administering high dose intravenous vitamin c, and would like

assistance getting started, please reach out to us at info@theremedyroom.com."

- In marketing materials titled "Paul Marik's Viral Infections Treatment Strategy," you post a document titled "Paul Marik's COVID-19 Treatment Strategy," which includes "Vitamin C 3g IV" for respiratory symptoms, and recommend the strategy for "mild symptoms, respiratory symptoms, and more. If you are a physician or know someone who is interested in administering high dose intravenous vitamin c, and would like assistance getting started, please reach out to us at info@theremedyroom.com."
- In marketing materials titled "Dr. Mignonne Mary: The History Of High Dose IV Vitamin C And Her Current Use For Viral Infection," you post a video with "CORONAVIRUS" as the lead caption and then state that "Vitamin C has randomized controlled clinical studies that show it has significant efficacy against virus and respiratory tract infection. This is contrary to conventional wisdom that attempts to claim there is no strong evidence for the action of vitamin C against viruses like the one that causes COVID-19. Watch Dr. Mary as she explains how she is using high dose IV (intravenous) vitamin C in her practice to battle the viral infection."
- In a series of Facebook postings, you claim among other things:
 - In an April 24 post, that consumers should "[p]lease take the time to share the evidence. There is more than enough [Vitamin] C helps with viral illness as well as cytokine storm" when sharing an article titled "Vitamin C Evidence for Treating Complications of COVID-19 and other Viral Infections [https://orthomolecular.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=a8f15e da80c50adb0e71943adc8015cf.155&ref=facebook&sh=bc01715e32e4eeca7ace72 d13d6ef0eb&fbclid=IwAR1zbH8FgCRnX5sdnA3Di876PUAmJ5IguxKymMMzI ngzPo2p9CmoU6bW4Kg]."
 - In an April 24 post, that consumers should "HELP US #spreadthewordnotthevirus [that] vitamins C and D, along with other micronutrients, can be a safe, effective and low-cost means to fight off C19" (internal quotation marks omitted) when sharing an article titled, "Oregon State University researcher: Vitamins C, D can help prevent COVID-19" [https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/2020/04/23/coronavirus-oregon-state-university-vitamins-prevent-covid-19/3013320001/?fbclid=IwAR0Mo4ozBIV0HgsL_Cqu_1_d5IjfOgfX3kyKZ_S BM36O5ul2oe15a7VAWc].
 - In an April 11 post, that "VITAMIN C WORKS FOR PREVENTION AND TREATMENT!!!" while sharing an article titled "Devra Davis discusses COVID-19 pandemic" [https://newsus.cgtn.com/news/2020-03-22/Devra-Davis-discusses-COVID-19-pandemic-P3w19Ok0aQ/index.html?fbclid=IwAR1vsafdBZr1sxKka1m1k33Vl44sLgBjX4s

aqot3G218CRWYtykGp_GOkgM].

- In an April 9 post, that "[t]he head of the emergency medical department at the Ruijin Hospital in Shanghai, Enqian Mao, reported March 18 on the experiences of his department, in which they have treated about 50 cases of moderate to severe covid-19 with intravenous vitamin C. They gave 10 or 20 grams a day, depending on the severity of the condition. All patients who received intravenous vitamin C recovered and none died. The average hospitalization time in Shanghai for patients with covid-19 is 30 days those who received vitamin C intravenously had a hospitalization time that was 3-5 days shorter. There were no side effects. . . . At The Remedy Room, we are also currently treating patients with COVID-19 using IV vitamin c with excellent results."
- In an April 4 post, that there is a "[r]ational for use of Vit C to tx [treat] you know what" while posting an article titled "Rationale for Vitamin C Treatment of COVID-19 and Other Viruses" [http://orthomolecular.activehosted.com/index.php?action=social&chash=8d5e95 7f297893487bd98fa830fa6413.151&s=bc01715e32e4eeca7ace72d13d6ef0eb&fb clid=IwAR2P0W2xfD7z-NR8C0TqZ44vyxiDTYC6Binv_CqSNZfJIMEe2Tf9zTshzSo].
- In an April 2 post, that "The time has come for Vitamin C to be used mainstream. #SpreadTheWordNotTheVirus #KeepItToYourself," when sharing an article titled, "The American Association of Naturopathic Physicians Urges Physicians and Hospitals to Utilize IV Vitamin C to Combat the COVID-19 Pandemic" [https://www.prweb.com/releases/the_american_association_of_naturopathic_phy sicians_urges_physicians_and_hospitals_to_utilize_iv_vitamin_c_to_combat_the _covid_19_pandemic/prweb17016592.htm?fbclid=IwAR1OL_BoT8RqC1-6socXIewBeOD-Qp0pe2y4Jj0dB036fx4hzruR73ArGh0].
- In a March 25 post, that "IV VITAMIN C is the game changer we need in all our hospitals. Please help us spread the news" when posting an article titled "New York hospitals treating coronavirus patients with vitamin C" [https://nypost.com/2020/03/24/new-york-hospitals-treating-coronavirus-patients-with-vitamin-c/?fbclid=IwAR0AyxuYe3aYjzS6yCQSBP26WlcQ5NB8Sw3eUgqoU9VS2Qv2g rcPBc2VCPI].
- In a March 7 post, that "In case you missed this amazing news!! Vitamin C is OFFICIALLY RECOMMENDED AS TREATMENT FOR COVID-19. Please share!!!"
- In a March 5 post, that "Today's word from Doc [Mignonne Mary] regarding #coronavirus. Stay informed and book your IV appointments now to keep your immune system in top shape!" while re-publishing a post from the owner of The Remedy Room stating, "High dose Vitamin C being OFFICIALLY

RECOMMENDED TREATMENT FOR COVID-19."

- In an April 7 posting of an article titled "3 U.S. Hospitals Use IVs of Vitamin C & Other Low-Cost, Readily Available Drugs" about treatment of COVID-19 patients [https://www.worldhealth.net/news/3-us-hospitals-use-ivs-vitamin-c-other-low-cost-readily-available-drugs/?fbclid=IwAR138fonLR8iKULJti0EisgQ1VcQuuF4PEGOWbqctFsazP9a1 X-SHWHHjl0]:
 - That "IV Vitamin C They're 'getting off the ventilator in 48 hours instead of 10-21 days"; and
 - In a comment to the posting, claiming to a consumer that "we have some items with zinc and other fat soluble vitamins in them . . . Zinc stops the virus from replicating. Pick up some and yes quinine in tonic water could help wash it down [©]."

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 products or services identified above. Thus, any Coronavirus-related prevention or treatment claims regarding such products or services 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 services and immediately cease making claims that are not supported by competent and reliable scientific evidence.

Within 48 hours, please send a message to James E. Elliott via electronic mail at <u>jelliott@ftc.gov</u> 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 Zachary A. Keller at <u>zkeller@ftc.gov</u>.

Very truly yours,

Dama J. Brown Regional Director Southwest Region