

## Chlorine Dioxide as Prevention or Treatment for COVID-19

The chemical chlorine dioxide has been promoted by some as being valuable for the prevention and treatment of coronavirus COVID-19. However, there is no evidence of its being effective in preventing or treating COVID. At the same time, there is good evidence that this chemical can cause serious harm after drinking it in the concentrations claimed to be helpful for COVID.

Chlorine dioxide solution is a diluted version of sodium chlorite. When citric acid is added, the mixture becomes chlorine dioxide, which is a powerful bleaching agent. Both sodium chlorite and chlorine dioxide are active ingredients in some bleaches and disinfectants, and have additional industrial uses. They are not meant to be swallowed.

Chlorine dioxide is unstable and cannot be transported. Kits to produce chlorine dioxide by mixing chemicals together are sold online under various names, such as “Miracle Mineral Solution”, “Miracle Mineral Supplement”, “Master Mineral Solution” and others. They are often referred to as MMS.

The US Food and Drug Administration has warned consumers on past occasions not to purchase or consume chlorine dioxide. There is no research showing that these products are safe or effective for treating any illness. The FDA has received reports of patients experiencing serious adverse events after drinking chlorine dioxide products including:

- Respiratory failure
- Methemoglobinemia
- QT prolongation
- Hypotension caused by dehydration
- Acute liver failure
- Hemolytic anemia
- Severe vomiting and diarrhea

The Georgia Poison Center advises that chlorine dioxide not be swallowed, and not be used outside of industrial settings where appropriate precautions against injury from this chemical can be used.

If anyone has concerns about chlorine dioxide or exposure to it, they can contact the nearest poison center for assistance by calling 1-800-222-1222 at any time.

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most recent revision: August 21, 2020