

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

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

May 13, 2020

## WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO jessica@nutrientcures.com

NutrientCures.com c/o Jessica Miller

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://nutrientcures.com/</u> on May 6, 2020. We have determined that you are unlawfully advertising that certain products treat or prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

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

• In marketing materials titled "Supplements for Coronavirus Protection?," you state:

"Can Supplements Help Prevent or Fight the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

The short answer is: likely yes but no testing has been done. This is such a new virus there has not been time to test treatments. The long answer in my non-medical opinion is:

There are supplements that have proven effective against other coronaviruses, and drug resistant strains of influenza, bacteria and fungus so they may work against the 2019 coronavirus. There is currently no medical treatment for coronavirus so there is no reason not to consider natural supplements. In fact there is no alternative.

Natural substances such as monoglycerides and nanoparticulates are now considered 'novel antimicrobials' and are increasingly useful against drug resistant infections. There are hundreds of scientific papers referencing studies which show these substances are highly effective and being considered the next wave of antimicrobial technology when traditional medicines are ineffective or too slow to be developed. Some of these such as silver nanoparticles are now used in hospitals for disinfection because they are simply the most effective solution available. This is not pseudoscience.

## Please see References below for a small sampling of the scientific studies available on the supplements discussed here.

Some of the supplements that are known to kill coronaviruses are those I take anyway due to auto-immune conditions. I take Lauricidin brand monolaurin every day to fight colds and flu with great results. I have had no side effects from Lauricidin and it has thousands of positive reviews and many decades of research supporting its efficacy."

- In marketing materials titled "Supplements for Coronavirus Protection?," in a section titled "What Supplements Can Fight Coronavirus," you claim:
  - "Lauricidin... Start with a quarter or half scoop. The pellets make it easier to take a high does [sic] and get the full effect needed to fight a virus. [Image of Lauridicin product with Amazon.com logo and price, and a "Shop now" button.] Lauricidin Monolaurin Kills Viruses such as SARS, other Coronaviruses and Influenza strains such as H1N1 (Swine Flu). Monolaurin breaks down the protective lipid coating of these dangerous viruses and destroys them. Lauricidin has been found effective against the following viruses ... Coronavirus...
  - "Colloidal Silver... Silver nanoparticles are coming into interest as potential novel antimicrobial agents. As drug resistant strains develop and standard vaccines and treatments can't keep up, novel anti-virals and antibacterials based in nanoparticulate metals such as silver and gold are gaining favor. Silver can kill hundreds of viruses and bacteria whereas standard antibiotics and anti-virals kill just a few specific strains.... Silver disables a specific enzyme used by single celled viruses and bacteria to metabolize oxygen which then suffocates the cell. There are other means by which silver can harm viruses and bacteria including disrupting their reproduction and respiration. Silver often works on drug resistant strains. [Image of NutriNoche Colloidal Silver product with Amazon.com logo and price, and a "Shop now" button.]...
  - "...Sambucus... is from the elderberry. It is one of the most powerful known herbal anti-virals . . . Elderberry antioxidant flavanoids called anthocyanidins are responsible for it's [sic] effectiveness against viruses. It can block viruses from entering our cells and prevent replication of viruses as well... [Image of Nature's Way Sambucus product with Amazon.com logo and price, and a "Shop now" button.]"

• In marketing materials titled "Vitamin D for Coronavirus," you claim that "Vitamin D may not directly kill a virus like COVID-19 coronavirus but it can help strengthen our immune systems and may also prevent the coronavirus from attaching itself to our cells... [Two images of different Vitamin D products with Amazon.com logo and price, and a "Shop now" button.]"

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, 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 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.

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 BROWN

Digitally signed by DAMA BROWN Date: 2020.05.13 15:44:43 -05'00'

Dama J. Brown Regional Director Southwest Region