

# Pandemic Counterfeits Demonstrate the Dangers of Canadian Drug Importation.

The Covid-19 pandemic created shortages in medical equipment that criminals exploited on an unprecedented scale. America will face this same danger again if we try and implement Canadian drug importation and purchase from unregulated foreign distributors.

## Counterfeit N95 Masks

When their usual suppliers could not provide PPE, state governments and hospitals [turned to unproven vendors](#) around the globe. Many of these companies supplied counterfeits. Between January 2020 and April 2021 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized [38 million counterfeit face masks](#) on their way into the country. Hundreds of thousands of these fakes reached medical practitioners and first responders in [Ohio](#), [Maine](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Washington](#), and [West Virginia](#), threatening their protection from the virus.



*Millions of counterfeit masks and surgical gloves sold by international distributors were seized during the pandemic.*

## Fake and Unapproved COVID-19 Tests

CBP seized [183,000 fake, unlicensed or non-FDA-approved COVID test kits](#) between January 2020 and April 2021. The media covered seizures in [California](#), [Connecticut](#), [Louisiana](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Maryland](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [Oregon](#), [Texas](#) and [Washington, DC](#). The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued multiple warnings about [unapproved or unreliable at-home COVID tests](#), most recently fake versions of widely used [Flowflex and iHealth antigen tests](#). Because no one can trace the origin of these tests, there is no way to know whether they are reliable or accurate.

## Counterfeited and Diverted Vaccines

Criminal organizations began selling stolen or fake vaccines on [dark web markets](#) and tried to [sell vaccines to authorities in Canada, Europe and South America](#). Regulators in [Canada](#), [Australia](#) and [the U.S.](#) each warned their populations not to buy COVID-19 vaccines online.

Internationally, patients in [Canada](#), [Germany](#), and [India](#) received saline injections instead of legitimate vaccines and fake vaccines were documented in [Africa](#), [China](#), [Ecuador](#), [Mexico](#), and [Venezuela](#), among other countries.

## Will We be Fooled Again by Global Vendors Pretending to Sell Canadian Medications?

In many cases foreign vendors will never be sufficiently brought to justice. They operate beyond U.S. borders and cannot easily be extradited. Because Canada [does not make its own medicine](#), and because the [Canadian government will not cooperate](#) with the U.S. to implement Canadian drug importation, we will be forced to trust vendors that we can't sufficiently regulate. That is a sure-fire recipe for counterfeit medicines.



For more information about the dangers of Canadian drug importation, visit our website at [safedr.ug/importation](http://safedr.ug/importation)