

United States of America FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION Southwest Region

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

April 28, 2020

WARNING LETTER

VIA EMAIL TO info@acenterfornaturalhealing.com

A Center for Natural Healing 1817 Pruneridge Avenue Santa Clara, California 95050

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>http://www.acenterfornaturalhealing.com/</u> on April 23, 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:

- On your sales page, you claim that "Treatment with Chinese Medicine has already proven in China to strongly support recovery from COVID-19. We'll be available to do virtual assessments to prescribe specific herbal and nutritional remedies and essential oil blends that target your symptom patterns and support you both in prevention and recovery."
- In marketing materials titled "Did Chinese Medicine Rescue China from COVID-19?", you claim that "Chinese Medicine is a Highly Beneficial Treatment for COVID-19."
- In marketing materials titled "Did Chinese Medicine Rescue China from COVID-19?", you claim that "Western treatments have no actual benefit in reducing viral replication within the body; a role that Chinese herbal medicine has proven to provide to a great extent."

- In marketing materials titled "Did Chinese Medicine Rescue China from COVID-19?", you claim that "Chinese herbal formulas, on the other hand, combine potent antiviral agents with anti-inflammatory herbs to reduce fever, pain and dilate respiratory airways along with herbs that can break-up mucus accumulation in the bronchioles to benefit those suffering with pneumonia. **Repeatedly over the course of this viral epidemic throughout China, these types of herbal formulations have proven to be highly effective in helping people recover and reducing the mortality rate of COVID-19**."
- In marketing materials titled "Did Chinese Medicine Rescue China from COVID-19?", you claim that "Many Chinese herbs have been extremely useful in the treatment and prevention of COVID-19. These include two common medicinal mushrooms which have been found to inhibit SARS-Coronavirus . . . In addition, ginsenoside-Rb1 isolated from Panax Ginseng has also been found to inhibit SARS-Coronavirus. These medicinal agents are considered immune tonic herbs used to prevent disease and therefore it's best to begin using them prior to contracting infection as a preventative. These tonic herbs would also be useful following recovery of symptoms to prevent relapse."
- In marketing materials titled "Did Chinese Medicine Rescue China from COVID-19?", you claim that "In the U.S. we have access to most of the Chinese herbs and herbal formulas used to fight and overcome this infection as presented in this article. Herbal formulas can be cooked at home into a decocted tea or taken as pre-made patent medicines in the form of granular powders, pills, tablets and tinctures. Through these means we can support patients with an active COVID-19 infection to a great extent with Chinese Medicine."

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 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 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