



# Frequently Asked Questions – COVID-19 Rebound After Paxlovid Treatment



## What is COVID-19 rebound?

COVID-19 rebound is when people with COVID-19 get better, then begin to get symptoms 2-8 days after they have recovered. They may also test positive again. There have been reports of this occurring with patients who were treated with Paxlovid. Paxlovid is an antiviral pill to help keep high-risk patients who have been infected with COVID-19 from being hospitalized.

## Why do patients have rebound?

At this time, it is not clear why this may be occurring. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Pfizer are reviewing data and collecting reports on cases to better understand what might be happening in these patients. In the original Paxlovid clinical trials, both patients who received Paxlovid and those who received the placebo (sugar pill) experienced rebound. This means that COVID-19 rebound may not be related to the medication.

## How long will a rebound last?

In the cases that have been described, rebound symptoms improved and/or positive tests became negative within 3 days for most people.

## Can people who experience a rebound get ill enough to be admitted to the hospital?

Patients with rebound appear to have mild symptoms, and there have been no reports of severe disease. But if symptoms worsen or do not get better, it is important that you contact your doctor.

## Is Paxlovid still recommended to treat patients with COVID?

Yes. Treatment with Paxlovid is still recommended for those who are at high risk for severe disease and have mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. Paxlovid treatment helps prevent hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 and remains an important tool in keeping people out of the hospital if they do get infected. Visit [ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines](https://ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines) to get more information about medicine to treat COVID-19.

## How do I know if I have COVID-19 rebound?

You may have COVID-19 rebound if you had COVID-19 and got better but begin experiencing symptoms or testing positive again within several days of recovering. For example, you had COVID-19 and your isolation period ended but you started to have symptoms again 2 days after your isolation period ended.

## What should I do if I think I have COVID-19 rebound?

If you think you have COVID-19 rebound, isolate yourself from others again. Isolation for COVID-19 rebound can end 5 days after your rebound began if you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours and your symptoms are improving. To protect others, wear a [highly protective mask](#) around others for at least





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10 days after the start of your rebound.

## **Should I repeat my treatment if I have COVID-19 rebound?**

No. There is currently no evidence that you will need to be treated again or to extend your treatment.

## **Will being vaccinated protect me from getting rebound?**

Based on the current data, it appears that a brief return of symptoms may occur in some individuals whether or not they were vaccinated or whether or not they were treated with Paxlovid. We are still learning more about what causes COVID-19 rebound.

The evidence continues to show that COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters help protect you from getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19.

## **Can I spread COVID-19 if I have COVID-19 rebound?**

Yes it is possible for you to spread COVID-19 if you have COVID-19 rebound. This is because your infection has returned. It is important that you re-isolate away from others if you are experiencing a COVID-19 rebound.

## **Does the fact that we are seeing rebound cases mean that people are developing a resistance to Paxlovid?**

So far, there is no evidence that the rebound was a result of the virus being resistant to Paxlovid.

## **Is there anything else that I should do if I experience a rebound?**

If you have any questions or concerns about your symptoms,, please call your doctor or the Public Health Call Center at (833) 540-0473. Staff are available 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm to answer questions.

If you had been treated with Paxlovid and experience COVID-19 rebound you are encouraged to report your information to Pfizer, the company that makes Paxlovid. You can submit information about your case online using the [Pfizer Safety Reporting](#) tool or to the FDA's [MedWatch](#). Pfizer and the FDA will be reviewing this information to help us better understand COVID-19 rebound.

