MEDICINES TO TREAT COVID-19

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 take a test and ask your doctor if treatment might be right for you.

Ask about treatment right away, even if your symptoms are mild. The medicines work best when they are started as soon as possible.

For more information, including how to get tested and treated for COVID-19:

- **Visit** ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines
  ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests

- **Call the Public Health InfoLine
  1-833-540-0473
  7 days a week 8am - 8pm**

Treatment must be started early

The oral medicines must be started within 5 days from when symptoms begin. Intravenous treatment must be started within 7 days. Do not wait until your illness gets worse.

COVID treatment can help keep you from getting very sick

Treatment may also help you feel better sooner. In addition, early evidence suggests that treatment may make people test negative sooner and lower the risk of developing long COVID.

Many adults and some children qualify for treatment if they have symptoms of COVID-19 AND either test positive for COVID-19 OR a doctor recommends treatment.

You may qualify for treatment if you:

- **Are age 50 or older**, or
- **Are unvaccinated or not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations**, or
- **Have one or more of the health conditions or characteristics below**
  (Even if you have had COVID-19 before or have been vaccinated).

- Are a member of a community that has been disproportionally affected by COVID
- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease/stroke
- Chronic kidney, liver, or lung disease, including cystic fibrosis, TB, and moderate to severe asthma
- Dementia or other neurological condition
- Diabetes
- Disability
- Heart condition

- Immune system problem including HIV infection, organ, or bone marrow transplant, or on medication like steroids, chemotherapy
- Mental health condition
- Overweight, obese, or physically inactive
- Pregnant
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoker, current or former
- Substance use disorder

The list does not include all possible conditions or situations.
For details, visit the CDC webpage People with Certain Medical Conditions.

If you have questions, contact your doctor.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines
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Types of medicines to treat COVID-19

These medicines are antiviral treatments – they prevent viruses from multiplying in the body.

Oral treatments – must start *within 5 days* of developing symptoms. Taken twice a day for 5 days. The most common side effects are mild.

- **Paxlovid** (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)– this is the recommended treatment for most people. It can be given to people ages 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. It is very effective, easy to take, and safe. Talk to your doctor if you are taking other medicines. They may tell you to stop or lower the dose of your medicines while you take Paxlovid.
- **Molnupiravir** (Lagevrio) – this is for people who cannot take Paxlovid or remdesivir. It can only be given to adults ages 18 and over who are not pregnant.

Intravenous treatment – must start *within 7 days* of developing symptoms.

- **Remdesivir** (Veklury) – for adults and children who cannot take Paxlovid, including infants who weigh at least 3kg (about 7 pounds). Given once a day for 3 days.

Treatment does not cause rebound infection. Rebound happens at similar rates in untreated and treated people. For more information see COVID-19 Rebound FAQs.

How to get treatment for COVID-19

- **Your doctor, urgent care centers, and some pharmacists can write a prescription** that you can fill at pharmacies. If you need intravenous treatment, your doctor can refer you to an appropriate location.
- **The Public Health Tele-Health Service** - open 7 days a week from 8am - 8pm at 1-833-540-0473. It provides easy access to COVID-19 testing, evaluation, and if you qualify, oral treatment.

If you need to leave home to get medical care, wear a respirator or medical mask that fits well to help protect others. See ph.lacounty.gov/masks for more information.

Free and low-cost treatment is available for eligible patients.

If you have Medicaid, Medi-Cal or are uninsured, you may qualify for a patient assistance program to get the medication free of charge. If you have private insurance, you may be able to get help with the co-pay. You can learn more about the programs for Paxlovid at paxlovid.com/paxcess and for Lagevrio at Merckhelps.com.

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