



CDPH Health Alert

Reminder to Prescribe COVID-19 Therapeutics to Mitigate Impact of Winter Respiratory Surge

November 29, 2022

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued a Health Alert to remind providers that once an individual is diagnosed with COVID-19, early treatment with COVID-19-specific agents is the only existing strategy to markedly decrease the risk of serious illness. CDPH states that there is an ample supply of COVID-19 therapeutics, however they have been underused in many vulnerable populations. Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) and IV remdesivir are the preferred treatments for nonhospitalized patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to severe disease.

In LA County, facilities that are interested in becoming a COVID-19 therapeutics provider can contact LAC DPH at DPH-Therapeutics@ph.lacounty.gov. Visit the [LAC DPH COVID-19 Therapy for Non-Hospitalized Patients](#) website for additional information.

ADDENDUM-12/5/22

CDPH updated this alert on 12/2/22. In this updated version, CDPH:

- Emphasizes the recommendation that providers have a low threshold to prescribe COVID-19 therapeutics given the broad range of individuals who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 and can benefit from COVID-19 treatment.
- Emphasizes that vaccination status and prior infection with COVID-19 should not be reasons to withhold COVID-19 treatment.
- Reflects the FDA's 11/30/22 announcement that bebtelovimab is no longer an authorized agent against SARS-CoV-2 given resistance of the currently circulating Omicron subvariants

See the full updated CDPH Alert online [Updated Reminder to Lower Barriers to Prescribing COVID-19 Therapeutics to Mitigate Impact of COVID-19](#).

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