



Medicines to Treat and Prevent COVID-19

Medication to Treat COVID-19

If you have COVID-19, have symptoms, and are at higher risk of getting very sick, you can get medicines that treat COVID-19 and help keep you out of the hospital. Get tested right away if you are at high risk and have symptoms, even if they are mild. If you test positive, ask for treatment right away.

Don't delay. The medicines work best when they are given as soon as possible.

Who may be eligible for treatment

- People age 65 and older, OR any age upon advice of a provider.

For example, individuals with the following conditions may qualify*:

- Cancer
- Disabilities
- Dementia
- Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
- Chronic kidney, liver, or lung disease
- Weakened immune system including HIV infection or organ transplant
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Blood diseases
- Smoking
- Heart conditions or stroke/cerebrovascular disease
- Current or former substance use disorders

**The list does not include all possible conditions. Speak with your provider if you think you might be at high risk*

How to access these medicines

There are several different ways to get medicines to treat COVID-19:



- **Your doctor can write a prescription** that you can fill at over 20 pharmacies in Marin County. If you need intravenous (into a vein) treatment, your doctor can refer you to an appropriate location.
- **You can use a Test to Treat program** available at many pharmacies and clinics. The Test to Treat services provide easy access to COVID-19 testing, evaluation, and if you are eligible, oral COVID-19 treatment.
 - **Test to Treat Locations can be found at:**
<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/>

Types of medicines to treat COVID-19

There are 2 types of medicine available to prevent or treat COVID-19:

- **Antivirals** that prevent viruses from "multiplying" in the body.
- **Monoclonal antibodies** that bind to the virus and help the body to get rid of it.



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These medicines are oral treatments (taken by mouth) and should be started within 5 days of developing symptoms.



- **Paxlovid** (antiviral) – for people age 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. It is the most effective oral antiviral for preventing hospitalizations.
- **Molnupiravir** (antiviral) – for adults age 18 and over, and not pregnant.

These medicines are given intravenously (into a vein) and should be started within 7 days of developing symptoms.



- **Remdesivir** (antiviral) – for adults and children, including infants who weigh at least 3kg (about 7 pounds). Given once a day for 3 days.
- **Bebtelovimab** (monoclonal antibody) – for people age 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. Given as a single dose.

Medication to prevent COVID-19

If you cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine for medical reasons, or your immune system is not strong enough to mount a response to the vaccine, talk to your doctor. You may be eligible for a long-lasting monoclonal antibody medicine called **Evusheld**. Evusheld is used to prevent COVID-19. (This is known as pre-exposure prophylaxis). It can be given to people age 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. It is given as 2 injections into a muscle at a single visit.



- **The medicines are free.** There is no cost for these COVID-19 medications, but the facility may charge a visit/consultation fee. Medicare and Medicaid cover all costs. If you have private insurance, check with your plan to see if it covers all costs. If you do not have insurance, ask the treatment facility if there are fees.
- **Only take treatments prescribed by a health care provider.** People have been seriously harmed and even died after taking products not authorized for COVID-19. This includes products approved and/or prescribed for other uses.
- **COVID-19 treatments are not a substitute for getting your COVID-19 vaccines.** Vaccines are safe, effective, free, and widely available throughout Marin County. They protect you from getting very sick with COVID-19.

If you have questions about any COVID-19 medication, contact your doctor. For more information and to find a location offering treatment, test, or vaccine visit:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/>