



Antiviral Treatment (Paxlovid) for Higher-Risk Individuals with COVID-19

Information for Long Term Care home residents, family members and caregivers



What is Paxlovid and how does it work?

Paxlovid is given to people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Paxlovid is a free antiviral medication that is taken orally (as pills) over five days. It is a combination of two medications (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) that work together:

- Nirmatrelvir prevents the COVID-19 virus from replicating
- Ritonavir helps keep nirmatrelvir from being broken down too quickly so that it can work longer

In a clinical trial, Paxlovid reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 89% in people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Paxlovid can interfere with other commonly used medications. A health care provider, often together with a pharmacist, might make changes to your other medications so that it can be taken safely. Your health care provider might prescribe a different antiviral treatment if you cannot take Paxlovid.

*Paxlovid must be administered within **five days** of symptom onset to be effective.*



Who should get this treatment?

Paxlovid is given to people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Your risk of serious illness is determined based on a combination of your health, age, and vaccination status, and is based on an assessment from a health care provider. You might be at higher risk if you are:

- immunocompromised (have an immune system that is weakened by a health condition or medications);
- 70 years of age and older;
- 60 year of age and older with less than three vaccine doses;
- 18 years of age or older with less than three vaccine doses and at least one risk condition

Risk factors include:

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| • diabetes | • congestive heart failure | • cerebral palsy |
| • obesity | • chronic lung disease
(including cystic fibrosis) | • sickle cell disease |
| • heart disease | • moderate or severe kidney disease | • moderate or severe liver disease |
| • hypertension | • intellectual or developmental disability | • pregnancy |



How do I get assessed for treatment?

You will need a positive COVID-19 test to take Paxlovid (PCR, rapid molecular test, or rapid antigen test). Please consult with your LTC home health care provider to determine if you are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and are a candidate for treatment.