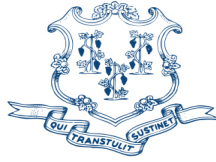


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

Public Health Preparedness and Local Health Section

Date: May 3, 2022 OPHPR-2022-002
To: Directors of Health, Acting Directors of Health
FROM: Francesca Provenzano, MPH, RS
Public Health Section Chief
RE: COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Therapeutics

Two COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments currently have an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir). These medications are taken as pills, as directed by a healthcare professional. Early treatment for eligible patients can reduce hospitalization and death.

Oral antivirals can help fight the COVID-19 virus by blocking it from entering the body's healthy cells, boosting the immune system, or reducing the amount of active virus in the body. An oral antiviral may be able to help decrease symptoms, the seriousness of the illness, and help patients recover faster.

Who Can Receive COVID-19 Oral Antivirals?

COVID-19 therapeutics can be used to treat non-hospitalized patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms. Therapeutics supply has increased, and oral antivirals are available for any patient who might benefit. Adults ages 18 years and older may be eligible for Lagevrio (molnupiravir). Adults and children ages 12 years and older (weighing at least 88 pounds) may be eligible for Paxlovid. An oral antiviral must be started within 5 days of symptom onset. Timely diagnosis and connecting with a medical practitioner are key elements to being eligible to receive oral antivirals.

Where Can Patients Receive COVID-19 Oral Antivirals?

By Prescription Filled at a Pharmacy

Oral antivirals require a prescription. Oral antivirals are available at most retail pharmacy locations (CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Rite Aid, Stop & Shop, Shop Rite, and Price Chopper) in Connecticut with additional sites onboarding weekly. People can be tested and treated by their health care provider, who can appropriately prescribe these oral antivirals. Patients can then fill these prescriptions at pharmacies that have the medication in stock.



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COVID-19 Antiviral Oral Therapeutics

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Other [locations](#), such as acute care hospitals, some federally qualified health centers, and pharmacies serving long term care facilities also have supplies of oral antivirals.

Test to Treat

Through the Test to Treat program, people are able to get tested and – if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them – receive a prescription from a health care provider, and have their prescription filled or medication dispensed by the provider all at one location. The Test to Treat initiative includes sites that have health care providers available to provide timely and thorough assessment and discussion relevant to oral antiviral treatment option(s), consistent with FDA requirements regarding these drugs.

People can bring at-home test results to a Test to Treat site for assessment to receive treatment. The program does not require that an individual is tested at the Test to Treat site.

These “One-Stop Test to Treat” [sites](#) are available at many locations across the state, including pharmacy-based clinics, urgent care centers, and Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)-supported federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs).

Is there cost associated with COVID-19 therapeutics?

Oral antivirals for COVID-19 have been purchased by the United States government and are available free of charge during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Individuals may be charged for other services provided at Test to Treat locations, such as medical assessment by a qualified healthcare professional or an administrative fee.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, please visit DPH’s COVID-19 Therapeutics website at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Public-Health-Preparedness/DPH-COVID-19-Specific-Resources/COVID-19-Therapeutics>

Questions from both providers and the public about COVID therapeutics can be directed to COVIDmeds.DPH@ct.gov.

COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator: <https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com>

COVID-19 Test to Treat Locator: <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com>

Attached: Antiviral Fact Sheet for Medical Providers
April 25, 2022 CDC Health Advisory: *Updated Information on Availability and Use of Treatments for Outpatients with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 Who are at Increased Risk for Severe Outcomes of COVID-19*