



Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Rebound



What is COVID-19 rebound?

COVID-19 rebound is when people with COVID-19 get better, then begin to get symptoms 2-8 days after they have recovered. They may also test positive again. COVID-19 rebound has been seen in people who received treatment for COVID-19 as well as people who did not receive treatment. One of several treatments that are associated with COVID-19 rebound is Paxlovid. This is an antiviral pill and it is the medicine that is used most often to treat COVID-19.

Why do patients have rebound?

At this time, it is not clear why COVID-19 rebound happens. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and others are reviewing data and collecting reports on rebound cases to better understand rebound. A [recent study](#) suggests that rebound may happen when people have a strong immune response to COVID-19. Other studies are also underway to try to better understand why rebound happens and how often people with rebound infect other people.

How serious are COVID-19 rebound symptoms?

COVID-19 symptoms are usually milder during rebound than during the initial infection. Recent studies suggest that patients with rebound have an extremely low chance of developing severe COVID-19.

Are antiviral medicines still recommended even though some people may get rebound?

Yes! Antiviral treatment is strongly recommended for people with COVID-19 who have symptoms and who are at [higher risk](#) of getting severely ill. Antiviral treatments (such as Paxlovid and molnupiravir) can help to keep people out of the hospital and prevent them from dying.

Visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines to get more information about medicine to treat COVID-19.

What should I do if I think I have COVID-19 rebound?

If your COVID-19 symptoms come back or get worse after you have ended isolation, you must isolate yourself from others again. You can end isolation for COVID-19 rebound 5 days after your rebound began as long as you have been fever-free for at least 24 hours and your symptoms are improving. To protect others, wear a [highly protective mask](#) around others for at least 10 days after the start of your rebound. See ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation.

If you have any questions or concerns about your symptoms, please contact your doctor. You can also contact the Public Health Call Center at 1-833-540-0473. Staff are available 7 days a week from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm to answer questions.

Can I spread COVID-19 if I have COVID-19 rebound?

Yes, it may be possible for you to spread COVID-19 if you have rebound. For this reason, if you have rebound, you must re-isolate to protect others (see above).



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Should I repeat my treatment if I have COVID-19 rebound?

No. There is currently no evidence that you will need to be treated again or take your treatment for longer.

Will being vaccinated protect me from getting rebound?

We are still learning about what causes COVID-19 rebound. So far, it appears that COVID-19 rebound can happen in people who were vaccinated as well as those who are not.

We do know that people who are up to date with their recommended COVID-19 vaccines and boosters are less likely to get severely ill with COVID-19. It is recommended that everyone ages 5 and over gets a Fall updated booster vaccine to reduce their risk of infection and serious illness.

If you had been treated with Paxlovid and experience COVID-19 rebound you are encouraged to report it to Pfizer. You can submit information using the [Pfizer Safety Reporting tool](#) or FDA [MedWatch](#). Pfizer and the FDA will be reviewing this information to help us better understand COVID-19 rebound.

