



MEDICINES TO TREAT COVID-19

As soon as you start to feel sick, take a COVID-19 test. If you test positive ask for free COVID-19 treatment right away, even if your symptoms are mild.

The medicines work best when they are started as soon as possible.

For more information, including how to get tested and treated for COVID-19:

- Visit ph.lacounty.gov/covidmedicines
ph.lacounty.gov/covidtests/how
- Call the Public Health Call Center
1-833-540-0473
7 days a week 8:00 am - 8:30 pm



COVID treatment can help keep you from getting very sick.

Treatment may also help you feel better sooner. In addition, early evidence suggests that treatment may make people test negative sooner and lower the risk of developing long COVID.

Many adults and some children qualify for treatment if they have any symptoms of COVID-19 AND a positive test.

People with symptoms of COVID-19 AND a positive test may qualify for treatment if they:

- **Are age 50 or older**, and/or
- **Are unvaccinated or not up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations**, and/or
- **Have one or more of the health conditions or characteristics below** (even if they have had COVID-19 before or have been vaccinated).
 - A member of a community that has been disproportionately affected by COVID-19
 - Cancer
 - Chronic kidney, liver, or lung disease, including cystic fibrosis, TB, and moderate to severe asthma
 - Dementia or other neurological conditions
 - Diabetes
 - Disabilities
 - Heart conditions
 - Stroke/cerebrovascular disease
 - Mental health conditions
 - Overweight and obesity, physical inactivity
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
 - Smoking, current or former
 - Substance use disorders
 - Immune system problems including HIV infection, organ or bone marrow transplant or taking medication like steroids, chemotherapy.

*The list does not include all possible conditions or situations.
For details, visit the CDC webpage [People with Certain Medical Conditions](#).*

If you have questions, contact your doctor.

Only take treatments prescribed by a health care provider.

COVID medicines are not a replacement for COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccines are safe, free, and [widely available](#).



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Types of medicines to treat COVID-19

These medicines are antiviral treatments – they prevent viruses from multiplying in the body.



Oral treatments (taken by mouth) - start *within 5 days* of developing symptoms. Taken twice a day for 5 days. The most common side effects are mild.

- **Paxlovid** (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)– this is the recommended treatment for most people. It can be given to people ages 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. It is very effective, easy to take, and safe. Talk to your doctor if you are taking other medicines. They may tell you to stop or lower the dose of your medicines while you take Paxlovid.
- **Molnupiravir** (Lagevrio) – this is for people who cannot take Paxlovid or remdesivir. It can only be given to adults ages 18 and over who are not pregnant.



Intravenous treatment (given into a vein) - start *within 7 days* of developing symptoms.

- **Remdesivir** (Veklury) – for adults and children who cannot take Paxlovid, including infants who weigh at least 3kg (about 7 pounds). Given once a day for 3 days. Doctors can choose to use this medication in patients with COVID-19 who have not tested positive.

COVID rebound is uncommon and is NOT a reason to avoid getting treatment. [Rebound infection](#) also happens in people who don't get treatment. It is mild in over 99% of cases.

How to get treatment for COVID-19



- **Your doctor, urgent care centers, and some pharmacists can write a prescription** that you can fill at [over 800 pharmacies](#) in LA County. If you need intravenous treatment, your doctor can refer you to an appropriate location.
- **A Test to Treat program*** - available at many pharmacies and clinics.
- **The Public Health Tele-Health Service*** - open 7 days a week from 8:00 am - 8:30 pm at 1-833-540-0473.

*These services provide easy access to COVID-19 testing, evaluation, and if you qualify, oral treatment.

If you need to leave home to get medical care, wear a respirator or medical mask that fits well to help protect others. See ph.lacounty.gov/masks for more information.

The medicines are free



- If a pharmacy said that you would be charged, please report it to 1-833-422-4255 or go.cdph.ca.gov/covidpharmacyreporting. A facility may charge for administering medicines that are given by injection. There may also be charges for the doctor's visit or other office charges. You don't need to be a US citizen to get free medicines.
- A new law requires all health plans in California to cover the cost of COVID-19 tests, evaluation for treatments, vaccines, and treatment with no cost-sharing in most circumstances. See [Know Your Health Care Rights](#) for details. Medicare and Medi-Cal cover all costs. If you do not have insurance, ask the treatment facility if there are fees. The DPH Tele-Health Service is completely free.