



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 is seen in people who received treatment for COVID-19 as well as in people who did not receive treatment.

Why do patients have rebound?

At this time, it is not clear why COVID-19 rebound happens. Studies are 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 rebound symptoms are usually mild. 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) 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 should take an antigen test. If you test positive, you should restart isolation at Day 0. 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?

It may be possible for you to spread COVID-19 if you have rebound. For this reason, if you have symptoms of rebound and you test positive, you should re-isolate to protect others (see above).

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.