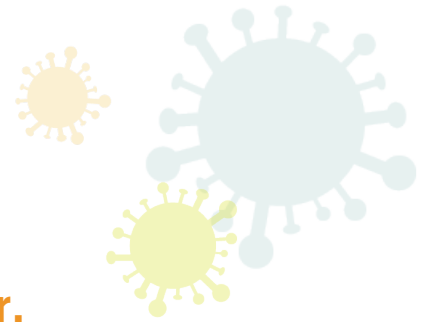


What are Oral Antivirals?



Pills to help someone with COVID-19 get better.

If you are at risk for serious COVID-19 and you have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 5 days, you may want to consider taking prescription oral antiviral pills. Two treatments are available: [Paxlovid™](#) (Pfizer) and [molnupiravir](#) (Merck). You may qualify for one of these COVID-19 treatments depending on your age, health history, and how long you have had symptoms.

Oral antiviral treatment may help your body fight COVID-19 by stopping the SARS-CoV-2 virus (the virus that causes COVID-19) from multiplying in your body, lowering the amount of the virus within your body, or helping your immune system. By getting treatment, you could have less serious symptoms and may lower the chances of your illness getting worse and needing care in the hospital.

- **HOW DO I TAKE THE ORAL ANTIVIRAL AND WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?**

Getting oral antiviral treatment means that you will be taking pills. You should take the oral antiviral treatment as directed by your healthcare provider. Do not skip doses or take extra doses if you miss a dose. You should take all of the treatment as directed until you have completed them or until your healthcare provider tells you to stop. Oral antivirals may be taken with or without food and it is recommended that the pills are swallowed whole, without breaking or crushing them.

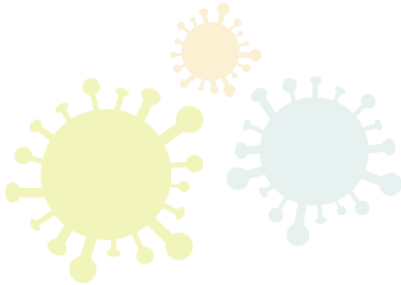
- **WHAT IF I HAVE AN UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION SUCH AS KIDNEY OR LIVER PROBLEMS?**

Before taking any medication, you should discuss your health history with your healthcare provider. This includes telling them about any health conditions you may already have and prescribed medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and supplements you are taking.

People with any kidney or liver problems should talk to their healthcare provider about their condition before taking an oral antiviral medication. Your healthcare provider can decide if an oral antiviral treatment is right for you and if your dose is appropriate. Some treatments may not be recommended for people with certain conditions.

- **WHAT IF I DO NOT QUALIFY FOR AN ORAL ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT?**

Your healthcare provider may decide you do not qualify for an oral antiviral treatment or that it is not right for you. There could be several reasons for this. You may not meet all eligibility criteria, or you may have a health condition that may not be suitable for certain treatments. Discuss the best treatment options for you with your healthcare provider.



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