

# What are Monoclonal Antibody Treatments?

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If you are at risk for severe COVID-19 illness and you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, you may want to consider a monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment. You may qualify for a mAb treatment to treat COVID-19 depending on your age, health history, and how long you have had symptoms.

The mAb treatment can block the virus that causes COVID-19 from entering cells in your body and limit the amount of the virus within your body. This means you may have milder symptoms and may decrease the likelihood of you needing to stay in the hospital.

A mAb treatment may help people who:

- Are at high risk of getting more serious symptoms **and**
- Have a positive COVID-19 test with symptoms for 7 days or less **or**
- Have been in close contact with someone who has recently tested positive

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## • WHAT IS A MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY?

Your body naturally makes antibodies to fight infection. However, your body may not have antibodies designed to recognize a novel (or new) virus like SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection (in this case, SARS-CoV-2) and are given to you directly in an infusion. The mAb treatment may help if you are at high risk for serious symptoms or a hospital stay.

The mAb treatment for COVID-19 is different from a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine triggers your body's natural immune response, but this can take weeks to develop enough antibodies against a virus. So, if you have the virus, the mAb treatment gives your body the antibodies it needs to protect itself. The mAb treatment does not replace the need for the immunity from the vaccine but it can help you if you are at risk for developing serious COVID-19.

## • CAN MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT MAKE ME SICK?

Antibody treatments do not contain any live virus, so there is no risk you will get COVID-19 from mAb treatment. However, the antibody treatment may have side effects. Please talk with your healthcare provider about possible side effects and what to do if you experience them.

## • WHAT IF I DO NOT QUALIFY FOR MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

Your healthcare provider may decide you do not qualify for mAb treatment. There could be several reasons for this. You may not meet all eligibility criteria, or you may have an underlying health condition that disqualifies you for mAb treatment. Ask your healthcare provider for other treatment options.

## • HOW CAN I GET MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES?

Step 1: Test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms for 7 days or less.

Step 2: Get a referral from your healthcare provider.

Step 3: Find an available fusion center.

To receive a mAb you should be referred for treatment by your healthcare provider and directed to available infusion locations. **If you do not have a healthcare provider**, call the Combat COVID Monoclonal Antibodies Call Center at 1-877-332-6585 to find out who to talk with about your symptoms and treatment.



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