



# Health Alert


**CDPH**
Chicago Department  
of Public Health

## Outpatient Treatment for COVID-19

February 7, 2022

### Key Messages and Action Steps

- There are four available outpatient treatments for COVID-19: Paxlovid (oral antiviral), sotrovimab (intravenous monoclonal antibody), remdesivir (intravenous antiviral), and molnupiravir (oral anti-viral).
- Clinicians should be aware of [patient prioritization](#) recommendations and ensure patients at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease are aware of and have access to these therapies.
- Clinicians should educate high-risk patients to contact them immediately after testing positive for COVID-19, including on home tests, and should treat without requiring confirmatory in-clinic testing.
- Locations providing these therapeutics can be found on [IDPH's COVID-19 Outpatient Therapy Locator](#) and [HHS's COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#).

### Overview of Outpatient Treatments for COVID-19

- Outpatient COVID-19 treatments are indicated for individuals with [mild to moderate illness due to SARS-CoV-2 infection](#) who are at [high risk of developing severe disease](#). This includes all patients ages 65 and older and patients with [certain underlying conditions](#).
- Sotrovimab is the only monoclonal antibody treatment effective against the Omicron variant. No other monoclonal antibody treatments should currently be used.
- The [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Panel Guidelines Panel's recommendations for therapeutic management of nonhospitalized adults with COVID-19](#) recommends the following order of preference for the available outpatient treatments:

#### PATIENT DISPOSITION

Does Not Require  
Hospitalization or  
Supplemental Oxygen

#### PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

All patients should be offered symptomatic management (AIII).

For patients who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19<sup>a</sup> (treatments are listed in order of preference based on efficacy and convenience of use):

- Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid)<sup>b,c</sup> (AIIa)
- Sotrovimab<sup>d</sup> (AIIa)
- Remdesivir<sup>c,e</sup> (BIIa)
- Molnupiravir<sup>c,f</sup> (CIIa)

The Panel **recommends against** the use of **dexamethasone** or **other systemic corticosteroids** in the absence of another indication (AIII).<sup>g</sup>

<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/management/clinical-management/nonhospitalized-adults--therapeutic-management/>

# Comparison of Recommended Outpatient Therapies\*

	Paxlovid™ (1)**	Sotrovimab (2)	Remdesivir (3)	Molnupiravir (4)
Age allowed for use	≥12 yr	≥12 yr	All ages, ≥3.5kg	≥18 yr
Initiate within # of days of symptom onset	5 days	10 days	7 days	5 days
Route of Administration	PO	IV	IV	PO
Duration of Therapy	5 days	1 time infusion	3 days	5 days
Pros	-High efficacy -Oral	-High efficacy -Single IV infusion	-High efficacy -Greater experience	-Oral -No drug-drug interaction concerns
Cons	-Ritonavir-related drug-drug interactions	-Requires IV infusion	-Requires 3 days of IV infusion -FDA approved for ≥12yr, weighing at least 40kg. -EUA for all other pediatric patients weighing at least 3.5kg	-low efficacy -Not authorized for age 12-17 years -Not approved for pregnancy -Concerns for mutagenicity
Supply Availability	Limited supply	Limited supply	Commercially available	More supply than Paxlovid™ & Sotrovimab
Efficacy (prevention of hospitalization or death)	<b>Relative risk reduction: 88%</b> Absolute risk reduction: 6.3%-> 0.8% NNT: 18	<b>Relative risk reduction: 85%</b> Absolute risk reduction: 7%->1% NNT: 17	<b>Relative risk reduction: 87%</b> Absolute risk reduction: 5.3%->0.7% NNT: 22	<b>Relative risk reduction: 30%</b> Absolute risk reduction: 9.7%->6.5% NNT: 31

\*Adapted from CDC COCA call 1/22/22

\*\*Number represents order of preference based on medication characteristics

## Clinician Resources

- Clinicians should refer to the EUA healthcare provider fact sheets for further details on [Paxlovid](#), [sotrovimab](#), [remdesivir](#), and [molnupiravir](#). For the FDA-approved remdesivir (Veklury) for 12 yrs and older weight at least 40kg, refer to the [full prescribing information](#).
- Clinicians are recommended to view the [January 12, 2022 CDC COCA webinar on the oral antiviral medications for COVID-19](#) and the [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults with COVID-19](#).
- To check drug interactions, clinicians are encouraged to explore EHR drug interaction solutions or may consider using the University of Liverpool's [COVID-19 Drug Interaction Checker](#).

## **Ensuring Patient Access to Treatment**

- Clinicians should be aware of the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's [patient prioritization recommendations](#) and ensure patients at highest risk of severe COVID-19 disease are aware of and have access to these therapies.
- Clinicians are encouraged to also inform their patient outreach and treatment strategies with data from the [Chicago COVID Dashboard](#) to ensure equitable receipt of COVID-19 treatments.
- Clinicians should conduct outreach to high-risk patients instructing them to contact them immediately after testing positive for COVID-19, including on home tests.
- Eligible patients reporting positive tests should be treated without requiring confirmatory in-clinic testing.

## **Requesting Therapeutics from IDPH**

- HHS allocates Paxlovid, sotrovimab, and molnupiravir to states based on COVID-19 case burden, hospitalizations, and product utilization rates. Remdesivir is available commercially.
- In Illinois, IDPH manages COVID-19 therapeutics allocation.
- For sotrovimab (allocated weekly)
  - Set up an account with AmerisourceBergen to receive shipments: [AmerisourceBergen New Site Form](#)
  - Set up an account with HHS [TeleTracking](#) to report inventory and usage.
  - Then use the [IDPH mAb Request Form](#) to submit request for a specific allocation cycle.
  - For assistance, email [DPH.MABTherapy@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.MABTherapy@illinois.gov).
- For Paxlovid and molnupiravir (allocated biweekly)
  - To request regular allocation from IDPH, fill out the [COVID-19 Antiviral Survey](#).
  - Set up an account with HHS Health Partner Ordering Portal (HPOP) following the instructions sent by IDPH.
  - For assistance, email [DPH.MABTherapy@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.MABTherapy@illinois.gov).

## **Locating Therapeutics Providers**

- Healthcare providers and pharmacies providing outpatient COVID-19 therapeutics can be found on [IDPH's COVID-19 Outpatient Therapy Locator](#) and [HHS's COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#).
- Additional community pharmacies will continue to be added.
- Hospitals and clinics receiving these therapeutics should communicate instructions on how to refer patients for these treatments to all medical staff
- For sotrovimab and remdesivir, outpatient providers should establish a protocol for referring patients to hospitals with which they have an affiliation or to other providers of these intravenous treatments.
- For providers looking to immediately access doses of the COVID-19 therapeutics, available doses may be found on the [IDPH Matchmaker Site](#).
  - Providers with extra doses on hand in between distribution cycles should use this site to post their available doses to ensure timely use of doses.