

Patient eligibility for Paxlovid to treat COVID-19

Updated April 12, 2022

The anti-viral Paxlovid is now available to more people with COVID-19, particularly those at high-risk for developing severe illness. The following website/email script may be adapted for your clinic and patients.

UPDATE ON PAXLOVID FOR TREATING COVID-19

Dear patients,

You may have heard about Paxlovid, an anti-viral tablet for COVID-19. Here are the key things to know:

- **Most people with COVID-19 symptoms** just need to self-isolate and rest, drink plenty of fluids and take analgesics such as acetaminophen (as needed) for headaches, fevers or muscle aches. This [information sheet](#) answers many of the most common questions about COVID-19, including when to call the doctor's office.
- Paxlovid is used to treat adults who have **mild to moderate COVID symptoms and are at high-risk of worsening to severe illness**, where they might require hospitalization. Depending on your age, health, and vaccination status (see below*), it could be an option for you. See this [factsheet](#) and use this provincial [screening tool](#) to see if you might benefit from Paxlovid or other treatments. There are several factors to consider, including potential interactions with other drugs, so a discussion with your doctor/healthcare team is important.
- If you think you may qualify for treatment and have COVID-19 symptoms (even if mild), call our office **right away**. **Do not wait for your symptoms to become severe**: treatment must be **started within five days of your first symptoms**. We can help determine next steps. You can also visit a local COVID [clinical assessment centre](#).
- Call 911 or go to the Emergency Department **if you have severe symptoms**, such as: you are short of breath while resting or if you are finding it harder and harder to breathe, have severe chest pain, are feeling confused or losing consciousness.

*You may be at higher risk if you are:

- over 18 years old and have a weakened immune system due to a health condition or medications
- over 70 years old (regardless of vaccination status)
- over 60 years old with fewer than three vaccine doses
- over 18 years old with fewer than three vaccine doses and at least one of these risk conditions:
 - obesity
 - diabetes
 - heart disease
 - hypertension
 - congestive heart failure
 - chronic respiratory disease (including cystic fibrosis)
 - cerebral palsy
 - intellectual or developmental disabilities
 - sickle cell disease
 - moderate or severe kidney disease
 - moderate or severe liver disease
 - pregnant and unvaccinated.

We are always here for you and will ensure you get the care you need, when you need it.

Best regards,