Antiviral treatment (Paxlovid) is available for higher-risk individuals with COVID-19

Know your risk and get assessed

Available treatments can help prevent serious illness if taken within 5 days of the start of symptoms.

Who should get this treatment?

Use Ontario's antiviral screener tool to help determine if you should be assessed for treatment: covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener

Paxlovid is given to people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Your risk of serious illness is determined based on a combination of your health, age, and vaccination status, based on an assessment from a health care provider. You might be at higher risk if you are:

- ✓ immunocompromised (have an immune system that is weakened by a health condition or medications);
- ✓ 70 years of age and older;
- ✓ 60 year of age and older with less than three vaccine doses;
- ✓ 18 years of age or older with less than three vaccine doses and at least one risk condition.

Risk conditions include:

- diabetes
- obesity
- heart disease
- hypertension
- congestive heart failure
- chronic lung disease (including cystic fibrosis)
- moderate or severe kidney disease
- intellectual or developmental disability
- cerebral palsy
- sickle cell disease
- moderate or severe liver disease
- pregnancy

Your primary care provider or another health care provider can tell you if you are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

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How do I get assessed for treatment?

First, check your symptoms:
covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed#symptoms

If you think you're at higher risk of serious illness and have symptoms of COVID-19, you can:

- contact your primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)
- visit a COVID-19 clinical assessment centre: covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations

If you don't have timely access to a primary care provider or you live in a community without clinical assessment centres, testing centres may be able to connect you to treatment. Contact your local testing centre for more information: covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations

Call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 if you have questions or need assistance.

> ***You should bring a list of:***
>
> - ***your medications, including prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements***
> - ***any important medical conditions***

You will need a positive COVID-19 test to take Paxlovid (PCR, rapid molecular test, or rapid antigen test). However, you do not need to have a positive test before reaching out. A health care professional will help you get a test if you need one.

> ***Don't delay or wait for your symptoms to become severe. Paxlovid must be taken within 5 days of the start of symptoms to be effective.***

What is Paxlovid and how does it work?

Paxlovid is an antiviral medication that is taken orally (as pills) over five days.

It is a combination of two medications (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) that work together:

- ✓ Nirmatrelvir prevents the COVID-19 virus from replicating
- ✓ Ritonavir helps keep nirmatrelvir from being broken down too quickly so that it can work longer

In a clinical trial, Paxlovid reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 89% in people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Paxlovid can interfere with other commonly used medications. A health care provider, often with a pharmacist, might make changes to your other medications so that you can safely take Paxlovid.

Your health care provider might prescribe a different antiviral treatment if you cannot take Paxlovid.

Learn more: covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-antiviral-treatment

Note: Treatments are not substitutes for vaccines. The best defence against serious COVID-19 disease is to get vaccinated.

Need this information in an accessible format?
1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@ontariohealth.ca

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