



PUBLIC HEALTH  
SAUK COUNTY  
WISCONSIN  
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# COVID-19 TREATMENTS AND MEDICATIONS

## What You Need to Know

If you test positive for COVID-19 and are more likely to get very sick, treatments are available that can reduce your chances of hospitalization and death.

**Don't delay:** Treatment must be started within days after you first develop symptoms to be effective.

Other medications can help reduce symptoms and help you manage your illness.

Being vaccinated makes you much less likely to get very sick. Still, some vaccinated people, **especially those ages 65 years or older or who have other risk factors for severe disease**, may benefit from treatment if they get COVID-19. A healthcare provider will help decide which treatment, if any, is right for you.

Medications to treat COVID-19 must be prescribed by a healthcare provider and started as soon as possible after diagnosis to be effective. Contact a healthcare provider right away to determine if you are eligible for treatment, even if your symptoms are mild right now.

## Types of Treatments

The FDA has authorized certain **antiviral medications** and **monoclonal antibodies** to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in people who are more likely to get very sick.

- **Antiviral treatments** target specific parts of the virus to stop it from multiplying in the body, helping to prevent severe illness and death.
- **Monoclonal antibodies** help the immune system recognize and respond more effectively to the virus.

CLICK ON THE MEDICATION NAME FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Treatment**

**Who**

**When**

**How**

**Nirmatrelvir  
with Ritonavi  
(Paxlovid)  
Antiviral**

**Adults;  
children ages  
12 years and  
older**

**Start as soon as  
possible; must begin  
within 5 days of when  
symptoms start**

**Taken at  
home by  
mouth (orally)**

**Remdesivir  
(Veklury)  
Antiviral**

**Adults and  
children**

**Start as soon as  
possible; must begin  
within 7 days of when  
symptoms start**

**Intravenous  
(IV) infusions  
at a  
healthcare  
facility for 3  
consecutive  
days**

**Bebtelovimab  
Monoclonal  
antibody**

**Adults;  
children ages  
12 years and  
older**

**Start as soon as  
possible; must begin  
within 7 days of when  
symptoms start**

**Single IV  
injection**

**Molnupiravir  
(Lagevrio)  
Antiviral**

**Adults**

**Start as soon as  
possible; must begin  
within 5 days of when  
symptoms start**

**Taken at  
home by  
mouth (orally)**



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# Managing COVID-19 symptoms

Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and can recover at home. You can treat symptoms with over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), to help you feel better.



## Preventing COVID-19

- COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States effectively protect people from getting seriously ill, being hospitalized, and even dying—especially people who are boosted.
- The FDA has issued an EUA for tixagevimab plus cilgavimab (Evusheld), a medicine used in adults and children ages 12 years and older. Evusheld consists of 2 monoclonal antibodies provided together to help prevent infection with the virus that causes COVID-19. A healthcare provider gives Evusheld as 2 separate consecutive intramuscular (IM) injections at a doctor's office or healthcare facility. If you are moderately or severely immunocompromised or severely allergic to COVID-19 vaccines, you may be eligible for Evusheld.

**Some treatments might have side effects or interact with other medications you are taking. Ask a healthcare provider if medications to treat COVID-19 are right for you.**

If you are hospitalized, your healthcare provider might use other types of treatments, depending on how sick you are. These could include medications to treat the virus, reduce an overactive immune response, or treat COVID-19 complications.

**The right medications for COVID-19 can help. People have been seriously harmed and even died after taking products not approved for use to treat or prevent COVID-19, even products approved or prescribed for other uses. Talk to a healthcare provider about taking medications to treat COVID-19.**