

# Talking to Patients About COVID-19 Treatments



## Types of Treatment

- **Oral antiviral medications are available for people with mild to moderate COVID who are at risk of severe disease. These treatments can be used at home.**
  - BMC has Paxlovid and Molnupiravir available.
- **Intravenous monoclonal antibody treatment is approved for people with mild to moderate COVID who are at risk of severe disease. These treatments are given at BMC as a single intravenous (IV) dose.**
  - Sotrovimab is available at BMC.
- **All current treatments are approved by the FDA under emergency use authorization.**

## Who is eligible for treatment?

People can get antiviral or monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID if they:

- Are unvaccinated
- Are 65 years old or older
- Are immunocompromised
- Have certain conditions, including cardiovascular disease, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, diabetes, mental health conditions, or neurodevelopmental disorders
- Have a BMI over 30
- Are a current or former smoker
- Have a substance use disorder
- Have had a stroke

## Why Get Treatment

- **Treatments have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization by up to 88 percent.**
  - Paxlovid: 88 percent reduction
  - Molnupiravir: 30 percent reduction
  - Sotrovimab: 85 percent reduction
- **You can be treated with oral antivirals at home, even if you're high risk.**
- **Anyone can get very sick from COVID-19, and if you're being offered this medication, you're at a higher risk of having severe COVID-19.**
  - If you get severe COVID-19, you could get very sick, be hospitalized, and have a higher risk of dying from COVID-19.

## Common Concerns

### **These treatments are too new and/or experimental.**

Although these medications are new to treat COVID, they are not new for treating viruses. They have been proven effective to help with preventing any mild COVID-19 symptoms (such as shortness of breath, fatigue, chills, fever, muscle aches, etc.) that are also seen in other viral infections.

### **Can I wait and see if I get worse before being treated?**

- The sooner you start treatment, the more effective these medications are, and your chances of avoiding serious illness from COVID-19 are much better.
- Treatment is most effective when oral antivirals are started between one to five days after your first symptoms or IV monoclonal antibody treatment is started between one to 10 days after your first symptoms.
- Every case of COVID-19 is different, and you can become very sick very quickly. If that happens, you might not be able to get any of these treatments.

### **COVID-19 isn't that bad.**

Many people do only have mild symptoms of COVID-19. But we're offering this medication to you because you're at a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19.

### **Do these medicines even work on the Omicron variant?**

Some approved medications for COVID-19 don't work very well against Omicron. But the medications BMC offers are effective against the Omicron variant.