

## **Health Update** March 9, 2022

Dear Partners in Health,

Please find enclosed in this update:

1. An overview of available COVID-19 therapeutics, including how to become a therapeutics provider
2. Resources for additional information about the COVID-19 therapeutics

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There are six outpatient therapeutics for use in people 12 years and older who are at high risk of developing moderate to severe COVID-19 symptoms. In addition, there are 4 therapeutics for inpatient-only use.

### **Pre-exposure Prophylaxis**

The only pre-exposure prophylactic for COVID-19 is tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld). It is a monoclonal antibody administered as a set of twin IM injections for asymptomatic people without a known exposure to SARSCOV2 who are immunocompromised AND may not mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination, OR not eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Evusheld can be re-administered every 6 months while indicated. Evusheld should not be administered less than 2 weeks after COVID-19 vaccination. The recommended dose was recently doubled, based on efficacy data.

### **Outpatient Therapeutics for COVID-19 Disease**

There are five therapeutics (two monoclonal antibodies and three antivirals) available for the outpatient treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 disease in people who have contracted SARSCOV2 and are [at risk of becoming severely ill](#), but are not sick enough to need hospitalization for COVID-19. Two of the therapeutics are taken by mouth, and the other three are administered via IV infusion in a medical office or infusion center (see Table 1). Please review the indications, limitations, and contraindications for each of these drugs, as there are some nuances between them. For example, molnupiravir is only for patients 18 years and older and is only 30% effective at preventing hospitalization or death compared to >70% for the other therapeutics, Paxlovid should not be used concomitantly with other CYP3A modulators, and several of these medications may cause fetal harm.

### **Providing Therapeutics**

COVID-19 therapeutics are available **by prescription only**, and supplies are limited but increasing across the United States. Prescribers and pharmacists must be registered to prescribe or dispense the outpatient COVID therapeutics. Healthcare facilities across the nation are required to report COVID-19 therapeutics administered and inventory

through the [Health Partner Order Portal \(HPOP\)](#), daily by 11:59PM EST. Enrolled Virginia therapeutic providers place orders for therapeutic products through VDH's VaxMaX Portal on Tuesdays by 12PM EST to be processed in the forthcoming week. Therapeutics can be procured directly through VaxMaX or transferred from other enrolled providers.

Table 1. Outpatient Therapeutics for COVID-19

	Therapeutic	Route	Indications	Risk reduction of hospitalization or death	FDA Approval Status
<b>Pre-exposure Prophylaxis</b>	Evusheld	IM	12yo+, 40kg+, high risk of severe disease, no known exposure to COVID	83% risk reduction of developing COVID-19	EUA
<b>Treats mild-mod COVID-19</b>	Sotrovimab	IV	12yo+, 40kg+, high risk of progressing to severe disease	70-85%	EUA
	Bebtelovimab			Insuff Data	EUA
	Remdesivir*			87%	Full
	Paxlovid	PO	18yo+, high risk of progressing to severe disease	88%	EUA
	Molnupiravir	PO		30%	EUA

\*Remdesivir received FDA approval for outpatient use in January 2022 but is not widely available for outpatient use in Alexandria at this time.

The [VDH COVID-19 Therapeutics Webpage for Providers](#) is an excellent resource for

- Information about the therapeutics
- How to enroll as a therapeutics provider
- Ordering and allotment of the therapeutics
- Guidance on billing
- Links to educational resources for healthcare providers and patients.

Find COVID therapeutics statewide using the [COVID-19 Treatment Locator](#) website. You may have seen the [Test to Treat](#) initiative in the news. To our knowledge no pharmacy based clinics in Alexandria have adopted this program yet. However, many pharmacies may offer testing, as well as stock antivirals, effectively accomplishing the same goal as the program.

Other useful resources:

- NIH: [COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nih.gov/covid19/treatment-guidelines) for outpatient therapy. Also contains guidelines for the management of adults hospitalized for COVID-19 based on disease severity.
- HHS: [COVID-19 Treatments and Therapeutics | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/treatment)
- HAN Alerts: register at [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/han/)

Questions? Contact AHD at [alexcovid19@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:alexcovid19@vdh.virginia.gov) or call 703-746-4988