



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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## Health Advisory

Date: March 10, 2022

To: Yolo County Healthcare Providers

From: Dr. Aimee Sisson, Health Officer

Subject: Update on Oral Antivirals for Treatment of COVID-19

**SUMMARY:** Oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 have become more plentiful. As a result, providers can now prescribe these for all eligible patients.

**BACKGROUND:** On December 28, 2021, a [Health Advisory](#) was shared with Yolo County Healthcare Providers regarding oral antivirals for the treatment of COVID-19. This memo provides an update to that Advisory.

On December 22, 2021 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets co-packaged for oral use) from Pfizer. On December 23, 2021 the FDA issued an EUA for molnupiravir from Merck. Both Paxlovid and molnupiravir are authorized for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in those who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. Neither medication is authorized for treatment of patients hospitalized due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 treatment guidelines from the [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) for high-risk, non-hospitalized patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 list **Paxlovid as the most preferred treatment**, followed by sotrovimab (infusion), and remdesivir (infusion). Betelovimab (infusion) and molnupiravir are alternative therapies recommended only when none of the 3 preferred therapies are available, feasible, or appropriate. Because Paxlovid is strongly preferred over molnupiravir, this Advisory focuses on Paxlovid.

Paxlovid is available by prescription in Yolo County. The available quantity of this medication has increased since December 2021, as has the number of pharmacies carrying this treatment. At this time, **Paxlovid has been allocated to the following pharmacies in Yolo County:**

- CVS, 1550 East Covell Boulevard, Davis
- CommuniCare Salud Clinic, 500 Jefferson Boulevard, West Sacramento
- Walgreens, 1351 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento
- CVS, 2185 Bronze Star Drive, Woodland
- Rite Aid, 295 West Main Street, Woodland

### Davis

600 A Street  
Davis, CA 95616  
Mental Health (530) 757-5530

### West Sacramento

500 Jefferson Boulevard  
West Sacramento, CA 95605  
Service Center (916) 375-6200  
Mental Health (916) 375-6350  
Public Health (916) 375-6380

### Winters

111 East Grant Avenue  
Winters, CA 95694  
Service Center (530) 406-4444

### Woodland

25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
Service Center (530) 661-2750  
Mental Health (530) 666-8630  
Public Health (530) 666-8645

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services maintains a [public locator for COVID-19 therapeutics](#) that can assist providers in finding a pharmacy with Paxlovid in stock. The locator is not always up-to-date; providers are advised to contact the pharmacy to confirm supply before transmitting a prescription.

In December 2021, when supplies of Paxlovid were extremely limited, prioritization to the highest risk patients with moderate illness was necessary. Such prioritization is no longer necessary. At this time, increasing supplies and lower COVID-19 case rates allow for use of Paxlovid in all patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. **Patients in all 4 tiers of [NIH Risk Groups](#) are now eligible for Paxlovid.**

- Tier 1: Immunocompromised individuals regardless of vaccination status; or Unvaccinated at highest risk of severe disease (75+ or 65+ with risk factors)
- Tier 2: Unvaccinated at risk of severe disease (65+ or <65 with risk factors)
- Tier 3: Vaccinated at high risk of severe disease (75+ or 65+ with risk factors)
- Tier 4: Vaccinated at risk of severe disease (65+ or <65 with risk factors)

The CDC considers the following to be among the [risk factors for severe COVID-19](#), and notes that the likelihood of developing severe COVID-19 increases when a person has multiple comorbidities:

- age 65+
- cancer
- cardiovascular disease
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic lung disease
- chronic liver disease
- dementia
- diabetes
- disabilities
- immunocompromising conditions or receipt of immunosuppressive medications
- mental health disorders including mood disorders and schizophrenia
- obesity (body mass index  $\geq 30$ )
- physical inactivity
- pregnancy
- smoking (current and former)
- tuberculosis

Providers should review the complete EUA and Fact Sheet before prescribing Paxlovid. Providers should also confirm the diagnosis of COVID-19 with a positive result on direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing before prescribing Paxlovid. Because Paxlovid needs to be given within 5 days of COVID-19 symptom onset, **healthcare providers and health systems are encouraged to develop test-to-treat programs that facilitate rapid access to treatment for patients/members who test positive.**

**Paxlovid** is comprised of nirmatrelvir, a SARS-CoV-2 main protease inhibitor, co-packaged with ritonavir, an HIV-1 protease inhibitor and CYP3A inhibitor. Paxlovid is authorized for use in adults and children 12 and older weighing at least 40 kg. Paxlovid is administered as a 5-day treatment course of 3 tablets twice daily. Treatment must begin within 5 days of symptom onset. In a clinical trial, Paxlovid reduced the proportion of people with COVID-19 hospitalization or death by 88% compared to placebo among patients treated within 5

days of symptom onset. Paxlovid inhibits CYP3A and is contraindicated with drugs that induce CYP3A or depend on CYP3A for clearance. The dosage of Paxlovid should be adjusted in patients with moderate renal impairment.

**RESOURCES:**

[NIH Treatment Guidelines](#)

[NIH Risk Groups](#)

[CDC Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19](#)

[US HHS COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)

[Paxlovid EUA](#)

[Paxlovid Prescribing Information](#)

[Paxlovid Dear Healthcare Provider Letter](#)

[Paxlovid Fact Sheet for Patients](#)