

Oral Medications for the Treatment of COVID-19 Illness Information for Persons with COVID-19 and Caregivers

What oral medications are available for the treatment of COVID-19 illness?

For persons with COVID-19 who are not hospitalized but are at high risk of severe illness, treatments for COVID-19 are available in Washington DC.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given two oral COVID-19 antiviral medications Emergency Use Authorization (EUA): Paxlovid (Pfizer) and Molnupiravir (Merck).

This document contains information for patients or caregivers for whom treatment with these antivirals is recommended.

What are these oral medications called?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to the following two oral COVID-19 antiviral medications:

- Paxlovid (Pfizer)
- Molnupiravir (Merck)

Are these medications effective?

According to information provided by the manufacturers, Paxlovid (Pfizer) reduces the risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19 by 89% and Molnupiravir (Merck) reduces the risk of hospitalization or death from COVID-19 by 30%.

How are these medications taken?

These medications are available as pills. Treatment must be started within the first 5 days of illness.

Do I have to have a positive COVID-19 test to take these medications?

Persons must have a positive test result for COVID-19 to be eligible to receive these medications.

Within the District, testing locations can be found on the DC Health coronavirus website at coronavirus.dc.gov/testing

Can I take one of these oral antiviral COVID-19 treatments?

Due to the limited supply of treatment courses available; the medications will be restricted to use by people who have the highest likelihood to become severely ill from COVID-19. Patients are eligible for these medications if they:

- Have positive tests for the COVID-19 virus (SARS-CoV-2),
- Are **not** hospitalized,
- Have mild to moderate illness,
- Have had symptoms for five days or less, and
- Are at high risk to develop severe COVID-19 because of:
 - Age 65 years or older;
 - Age > 12 (for Paxlovid) or >18 (for molnupiravir) and have any of the conditions that increase the risk of severe illness listed by the CDC at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html)

How and where can I get obtain these medications?

To obtain these medications, **you must have a prescription** for them from a medical provider licensed to prescribe drugs in the District of Columbia. These prescriptions can be filled at select pharmacies in Washington, DC. Bring your insurance card to the pharmacy.

Paxlovid appears more effective than Molnupiravir, but there are fewer doses of Paxlovid available. For this reason, your health care provider may give you prescriptions for both medications. You should fill only one prescription. If both are available, you should fill the prescription for Paxlovid. If only Molnupiravir is available, you should fill the prescription for Molnupiravir. **You should NOT take both Paxlovid and Molnupiravir.**

The medications themselves are available at no cost. Pharmacies may charge a fee to dispense them, by this fee should be covered by health insurance.

Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are distributed through selected pharmacies in Washington, DC including retail pharmacies and healthcare facility outpatient pharmacy locations.

Retail Pharmacy locations:

Store Name	Address	Phone Number
Giant Pharmacy #378	1345 Park Road, NW, Washington DC, 20010	(202)-777-1078
Giant Pharmacy #384	1535 Alabama Ave, SE, Washington DC, 20032	(202)-610-6450
Safeway #1276	6500 Piney Branch Rd, NW, Washington DC, 20012	(202) 723-5612

Safeway #1445	2845 Alabama Ave, SE, Washington DC, 20020	(202)-575-7527
Safeway #2737	490 L Street, NW, Washington DC, 20001	(202) 719-2439
Safeway #2808	3830 Georgia Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20011	(202) 722-4067
Safeway #2892	1100 4th Street, SW, Suite 150, Washington DC 20024	(202) 719-2500
Safeway #2912	1855 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington DC 20007	(202) 333-6048
Safeway #3217	415 14th Street, SE, Washington DC 20003	(202) 920-5875
Safeway #4202	1747 Columbia Road, NW, Washington DC, 20009	(202) 667-2080
Safeway #4270	1601 Maryland Ave, NE, Washington DC 20002	(202) 398-6900
Safeway #4832	5545 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington DC, 20015	(202) 364-0320

Healthcare facility outpatient pharmacy locations:

Healthcare Facility Name	Address
The GW Medical Faculty Associates	2150 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Ste 6A-403 Washington DC, 20037
Kaiser Permanente Capitol Hill	700 2nd Street, NE, Washington DC 20002
Kaiser Permanente Northwest	2301 M Street NW, Suite 200, Washington DC, 20037
MedStar Pharmacy at Georgetown University Hospital	3800 Reservoir Rd, NW, Washington DC, 20070
MedStar Pharmacy at Washington Hospital Center	106 Irving Street, NW, Suite 1200, Washington DC, 20010

Additionally, oral COVID-19 antiviral medication is available at Test to Treat program locations across the District (aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx). The test to treat program is an additional pathway for fast access to lifesaving COVID-19 treatments and can be found online at a web-based site locator (covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/) available to make it easier to find Test to Treat locations.

Those who may have difficulty accessing the internet or need additional support locating a Test to Treat site can call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages – 8am to midnight ET, 7 days a week. The Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) is also available to specifically help people with disabilities access services at [1-888-677-1199](tel:1-888-677-1199), Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 8:00pm or via email at DIAL@usaginganddisability.org.

Where can I find more information?

More information on these medications is available in Fact Sheets for Patients and Caregivers at these links:

- Paxlovid:
 - covid19oralrx-patient.com/files/Final-EUA-Fact-sheet-for-Patients-Parents-and-Caregivers-COVID-19-Oral-Antiviral.pdf
- Molnupiravir:
 - merck.com/eua/molnupiravir-patient-fact-sheet-english.pdf

For questions regarding COVID-19 Therapeutics please contact DC Health at:
Phone: 1-855-363-0333 (M-Sa 9:00am – 5:30pm) | **Email:** covid.therapeutics@dc.gov