

Who should take COVID-19 treatments

Everyone who has symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19 should seek evaluation for medications to treat COVID-19

Safe, highly effective, free, widely available, and recommended for:

Anyone 12 years old and older who:

- Has COVID-19 symptoms, AND
- Has tested positive for COVID-19, AND
- Has certain experiences and conditions that put them at higher risk for worse COVID-19 illness. **That's most adults and some teens!** The list is broad and includes:
 - Being 50 years of age and older
 - Having common experiences and conditions like obesity, being physical inactive, smoking (either past or present), asthma, diabetes, mental health conditions like depression, being of a racial/ethnic minority, and many more. See here for a comprehensive list: bit.ly/EligibleConditions
 - Being unvaccinated or not up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination

As soon as you start to feel sick, act quickly to take a COVID-19 test and get free COVID-19 treatment.

COVID-19 treatments must be taken early, within **5-7 days of when symptoms begin!** Do not wait until your illness gets worse.

Why should you take COVID-19 treatment when your illness is still mild?

- COVID-19 treatments are highly effective at preventing COVID illness from getting serious. Scientific evidence shows that **they can prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 by 50-88%.**
- Treatments like the Paxlovid pill can also **stop the virus from multiplying in your body and infecting more of your cells**, so they can help you **test negative sooner.**
- Early evidence also suggests COVID-19 treatment may lower the risk of developing long COVID – which are symptoms and medical issues that can last for weeks, months, or years after a COVID-19 infection.

Call your health care provider or urgent care center or call the statewide COVID-19 hotline at 833-422-4255 to find free COVID-19 treatment.

Learn more about COVID-19 treatments at covid19.ca.gov/treatment.

