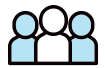


Antiviral treatment (Paxlovid) is available for higher-risk individuals with COVID-19

Know your risk and get assessed

Available treatments can help prevent serious illness if taken within 5 days of the start of symptoms.



Who should get this treatment?

Use Ontario's antiviral screener tool to help determine if you should be assessed for treatment: covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener

Paxlovid is given to people who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Your risk of serious illness is based on your health, age and vaccination status, plus an assessment from a health care provider. You might be at higher risk if you are:

- ✓ immunocompromised (have an immune system that is weakened by a health condition or medications);
- ✓ 70 and older;
- ✓ 60 and older with less than three vaccine doses;
- ✓ 18 and older with less than three vaccine doses and at least one risk condition.



Risk conditions include:

- diabetes
- obesity
- heart disease
- hypertension
- heart failure
- lung disease (including cystic fibrosis)
- kidney disease
- intellectual or developmental disability
- cerebral palsy
- sickle cell disease
- liver disease
- pregnancy

Your primary care provider or another health care provider can tell you if you are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.



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How do I get assessed for treatment?

First, check your symptoms:

covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed#symptoms

If you think you're at higher risk of serious illness and have symptoms of COVID-19, you can:

- contact your primary care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner)
- visit a COVID-19 clinical assessment centre: covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations

If you don't have timely access to a primary care provider or you live in a community without clinical assessment centres, testing centres may be able to connect you to treatment. Contact your local testing centre for more information: covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations

You can also contact Health Connect Ontario if you have questions or need help. Call 811 (toll-free TTY: 1-866-797-0007) or visit the website to chat with a nurse online: healthconnectontario.health.gov.on.ca

When you get assessed for treatment, you should bring:

- ***a list of your medications, including prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements***
- ***a list of any important medical conditions***

You will need a positive COVID-19 test to take Paxlovid (PCR, rapid molecular test, or rapid antigen test). However, you do not need to have a positive test before reaching out. A health care provider will help you get a test if you need one.

Don't delay or wait for your symptoms to become severe. Paxlovid must be taken within 5 days of the start of symptoms to be effective.

Need this information in an accessible format?

1-877-280-8538, TTY 1-800-855-0511, info@ontariohealth.ca



What is Paxlovid and how does it work?

Paxlovid is an antiviral medication that is taken orally (as pills) over five days. It is available for free with a prescription from a health care provider. You do not need an OHIP card to get Paxlovid.

It is a combination of two medications (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) that work together:

- ✓ Nirmatrelvir prevents the COVID-19 virus from replicating
- ✓ Ritonavir helps keep nirmatrelvir from being broken down too quickly

In a clinical trial, Paxlovid reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 89% in people at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Paxlovid can interfere with other commonly used medications. A health care provider, often with a pharmacist, might make changes to your other medications so that you can safely take Paxlovid.

Your health care provider might prescribe a different antiviral treatment if you cannot take Paxlovid.

Learn more:

covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-treatments

Note: Treatments are not substitutes for vaccines. The best defence against serious COVID-19 disease is to get vaccinated.



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