

What Are My Options for Treating COVID-19?

Antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments both work by helping your body fight COVID-19, which may result in milder symptoms and lower chances of hospitalization. People with COVID-19 at risk of serious illness are eligible for these treatment options.

Who is Eligible for Treatment?

Those who are at high risk for serious illness with COVID-19 infection are eligible for treatment. This includes people over 65, people with chronic disease, weakened immune systems, diabetes, heart conditions, HIV, obesity, cancer, tuberculosis, pregnant people, or transplant patients (full list [here](#)).ⁱ

If you have COVID-19 and believe you are eligible, talk to your healthcare provider about treatment options. You can also visit [COVID-19 Test to Treat](#) to find free treatment options near you.ⁱⁱ

Possible Treatments

Antivirals

Two [oral antiviral](#) treatments are available, one for people over 12 and one for those over 18.ⁱⁱⁱ If you have tested positive, have had symptoms for 5 days or less, and are at high risk for more serious symptoms, you may qualify for oral antiviral treatment. If so, your healthcare provider will write you a prescription for pills to be taken orally. There is also an IV antiviral option for people over 12 that can be started within 7 days of symptoms beginning; your healthcare provider will refer you to an infusion

center. If you are pregnant or have an underlying health condition, you should discuss this with your doctor before starting any treatment.

Monoclonal Antibodies

[Monoclonal antibodies](#) – or mAbs – may help people over 12 that can't use or access oral antiviral options.^{iv} mAb treatment can be started up to 7 days after symptoms begin. If you qualify, your healthcare provider will refer you to an infusion location, where you will receive the treatment through an IV or shots. mAbs are safe for pregnant and older people.

There is also an antibody treatment that can help eligible people before they get COVID-19. This treatment can help prevent or fight a COVID-19 infection and is intended to help people that might be at higher risk, such as cancer patients and those who have received organ transplants. Talk to your healthcare provider if you think you may qualify.

Visit [Test to Treat](#) to find local testing sites and access free lifesaving treatment for COVID-19 if appropriate.



ANGELA LECLERC
MSPA, PA-C
Critical Care PA; Critical Care APP Program Manager & Residency Director, Maine Medical Center



SAMPATH WIJESINGHE
DHSC, AAHIVS, PA-C
Clinical Assistant Professor, Stanford School of Medicine PA; Central Valley California Clinical Site Director, Adventist Health



STEPHANIE PODOLSKI
MPH, MSPA, PA-C
Hospitalist PA, Lead PA, Director of the APP Hospital Medicine Fellowship, MaineGeneral Medical Center

ⁱ Who is at high risk for serious COVID-19? HHS. <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/i-have-covid-19/how-do-i-know-if-im-high-risk>

ⁱⁱ COVID-19 Test to Treat Locator, HHS. <https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx>

ⁱⁱⁱ What are oral antivirals? HHS. <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/what-are-oral-antivirals>

^{iv} What are monoclonal antibodies? HHS. <https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/what-are-mono-clonal-antibodies>