



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Oral Antivirals Recommended in Long-term Care Facilities for COVID-19 Treatment

The oral antiviral products molnupiravir and Paxlovid are authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for **treatment** of mild to moderate COVID-19 infections for those at **high risk** for developing severe disease and/or hospitalization. See EUAs for full prescribing information, [molnupiravir-hcp-fact-sheet.pdf \(merck.com\)](https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download), <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>

I. WORK WITH YOUR MEDICAL DIRECTOR TO DETERMINE IF/WHEN YOU NEED TO INITIATE ANTIVIRAL THERAPY FOR INDIVIDUAL RESIDENTS TO PREVENT HOSPITALIZATIONS AND DEATHS

- COVID-19 positive residents at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19
 - Individuals 65 years or older; Individuals with underlying medical conditions, including but not limited to cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, chronic lung disease, dementia or other neurological conditions, diabetes, down syndrome, heart conditions, HIV infection, immunocompromised state, mental health conditions, overweight and obesity, pregnancy, sickle cell disease or thalassemia, smoking current or former, solid organ or blood stem cell transplant, stroke or cerebrovascular disease, substance use disorders [People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC](#)
- Paxlovid and molnupiravir are not authorized for initiation of treatment in patients requiring hospitalization due to severe or critical COVID-19
- Use this clinical decision-making tool to help determine in a timely manner individuals who should receive treatment with oral antivirals:
<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/therapeutics/Documents/COVID-Therapeutics-Decision-Aid.pdf>

II. WORK WITH YOUR LONG-TERM CARE PHARMACY TO OBTAIN ORAL ANTIVIRALS

- Partner with your long-term care pharmacy to obtain oral antiviral medications
- Paxlovid and molnupiravir must be ordered from the pharmacy with a prescription from a provider
- The oral antivirals for COVID-19 are available in limited quantities and are allocated by the federal government to all states. In MS, this allocation is then distributed by the MSDH Pharmacy in an equitable manner.

If you have any questions about oral antivirals for COVID-19 treatment, please email C19Therapeutics@msdh.ms.gov.