As a contact tracer or case investigator, you may receive questions from case patients, contacts, or loved ones in your community regarding the latest COVID-19 treatment options, including the use of antiviral pills or monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of COVID-19. This document will provide you with basic facts that you can share with others.

This information is provided for your reference only to help you respond to questions raised by others. You should not provide medical advice or recommend any course of treatment.

**What are COVID-19 treatments? How are they different from the vaccine?**

- **Monoclonal antibodies**, or mAbs, are lab-produced molecules designed to fight a particular infection (in this case, the virus that causes COVID-19). They are given to patients directly with an infusion or a shot, and they may help patients who are at high risk for severe symptoms or hospitalization.

- **Antiviral pills for treatment of COVID-19** are oral treatments that work to keep the COVID-19 virus from replicating, thereby reducing viral load and symptom severity.

- mAbs and antiviral pills have received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as a treatment option for mild to moderate COVID-19 in certain high-risk patients. They do not replace vaccines, which protect from COVID-19 by triggering the body’s natural immune response and provide the best protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death.

**Who is eligible for COVID-19 treatments and when?**

- **High-risk adults and youth (age 12 and older who weigh at least 88lbs) may be eligible for treatment.** High-risk factors include:
  - Older age (>65)
  - Obesity or being overweight
  - Pregnancy
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Cerebral palsy or other developmental conditions
  - Other non-medical factors such as race or ethnicity may also put individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19
  - A weakened immune system
  - Heart disease including high blood pressure
  - Lung disease such as COPD, asthma, or cystic fibrosis
  - Sickle cell disease
  - Regular use of a feeding tube or ventilator
  - Diabetes

- **Treatments must be administered:**
  - As soon as possible after a positive COVID-19 test result and
  - **FOR MABS:** within 7 days of a person's first COVID-19 symptoms.
  - **FOR ANTIVIRALS:** within 5 days of a person’s first COVID-19 symptoms. These pills cannot be used longer than 5 days.
Understanding Treatment Options for COVID-19
Last Update: 6/9/2022

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How can an individual find COVID-19 treatment?

If a contact or a case patient expresses interest in oral antiviral pills or monoclonal antibody treatment, direct them to speak to a healthcare provider. You cannot provide medical advice or recommend treatment.

For additional resources to receive COVID-19 Treatment:
1. Visit covid19.ncdhhs.gov/FindTreatment
2. Test to Treat is an important way to quickly access treatment for COVID-19. Through this program, individuals can get tested, and if found positive, can receive appropriate prescriptions and have them filled all in one location.
3. Visit the Combat COVID website or call North Carolina's COVID-19 Helpdesk, which includes vaccine and treatment hotlines, 1-888-675-4567.

Note that all COVID-19 treatments require a clinical assessment by a healthcare professional. If interested, direct the individual to speak to a healthcare provider. Further details regarding COVID-19 treatments can be found here.

People who are not fully vaccinated or have immunocompromising conditions and have either been exposed to COVID-19 or are at high risk of exposure may qualify for preventive treatment, which also does not replace a vaccine.

What are the currently available COVID-19 Treatments?

Monoclonal Antibodies
- Bebtelovimab

Oral Antivirals
- Paxlovid (Pfizer treatment pill)
- Lagevrio (molnupiravir) (Merck treatment pill)


Note that these treatments are not a substitute for a vaccination against COVID-19. Visit MySpot.nc.gov to schedule a vaccine near you.