

# Offer Patients an Added Treatment Option for COVID-19 with Oral Antivirals

**Paxlovid™ and Lagevrio™** – authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – can be prescribed to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 for use at home.



## COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots are recommended first

Oral antiviral treatments do not replace vaccinations and booster doses for individuals where a COVID-19 vaccine regimen and booster doses are recommended against COVID-19.



## Which is more effective – Paxlovid or Lagevrio?

The COVID-19 Treatment Guideline's Panel recommends Paxlovid as the preferred therapy for COVID-19 for individuals with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 viral testing and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. The Panel recommends using Lagevrio only when Paxlovid is not available or cannot be used due to its reduced effectiveness.

For more information about Paxlovid and Lagevrio, see the chart on page 2.



## Locate pharmacies to fill prescribed oral treatment

Members must get a prescription for COVID-19 oral antiviral pills. To help members find a pharmacy that carries them, use this QR code:



Or go to














<https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>

At the website, click the search box and type in an address or ZIP Code and press enter for a list of pharmacies.

### References

- Paxlovid Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers – [www.fda.gov/media/155050/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download)
- Lagevrio (molnupiravir) Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers – [www.fda.gov/media/155054/download](https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download)
- Side-by-Side Overview of Therapeutics Authorized or Approved for the Prevention of COVID-19 Infection or Treatment of Mild-Moderate COVID-19 – <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/side-by-side-overview.pdf>
- National Institutes of Health's Information about Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid) – [www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antiviral-therapy/ritonavir-boosted-nirmatrelvir--paxlovid-/](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antiviral-therapy/ritonavir-boosted-nirmatrelvir--paxlovid-/)
- Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults With COVID-19 – [www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/management/clinical-management/nonhospitalized-adults--therapeutic-management/](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/management/clinical-management/nonhospitalized-adults--therapeutic-management/)

## Facts about COVID-19 antiviral pills to treat mild to moderate COVID-19

|   | Paxlovid (Pfizer) (Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)  | Lagevrio (Merck) (Molnupiravir)   |
|---|---|---|
| How do you take it?                     |  Take three pills by mouth <b>twice a day</b> – morning and evening, with or without food and swallowed whole.     |  Take four pills by mouth <b>twice a day</b> – morning and evening, with or without food and swallowed whole.   |
| Who can take it?                        |  Ages 12+, weighing 88+ pounds and at high risk.   |  Ages 18+ and at high risk <sup>1</sup> ; not authorized for use in patients younger because molnupiravir may affect bone and cartilage growth.   |
| How does it work?                       | Blocks a protein the virus uses to multiply.  | Inserts itself into the virus' genetic material.  |
| How effective is it?                    |  Lowers the risk by <b>almost 90%</b> .  |  Lowers the risk by <b>about 30%</b> .  |
| Are there any drug interactions?        | Many statins, blood thinners, hormonal birth controls, some seizure medications, St John's wort. <sup>2</sup>   | Minimal.  |
| Are there any side effects?             |  Known side effects include: Diarrhea, high blood pressure, muscle aches, change in taste.                         |  Known side effects include: Dizziness, nausea and diarrhea.  |
| Does it affect pregnancy and lactation? |  Ritonavir has been studied during pregnancy in people with HIV and suggests it has an acceptable safety profile. |  Not recommended for use; may cause fetal harm based on animal studies. Authorized only if benefits outweigh risks for the individual patient. Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment or for 4 days after final dose. |
| How do patients get the medication?     |  Prescription only.  |   |
| When should it be prescribed?           |  Start within five days of symptom onset.  |   |
| How long do you take the pills?         |  Five Days.  |   |

<sup>1</sup>Should only be used when no other treatment is available for mild to moderate COVID-19.

<sup>2</sup>Refer to the medication's prescribing information or consult with a pharmacist for a thorough medication review.

### Questions or need help?

Contact us for clinical or drug information questions or for more help at [caclinicalpharmacy@centene.com](mailto:caclinicalpharmacy@centene.com).

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