



**TO: West Virginia Healthcare Providers, Hospitals and Other Healthcare Facilities**

**FROM: Ayne Amjad, MD, MPH, Commissioner and State Health Officer  
West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health**

**DATE: December 29, 2021**

**LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to community health providers, hospital-based physicians, infection control preventionists, laboratory directors and other applicable partners.**

**OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to association members, staff, etc.**

As of December 23, 2021, two oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 have been issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA): Pfizer’s Paxlovid and Merck’s Molnupiravir.

Oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 are available in limited supply by prescription to those aged 12 and older for Pfizer’s Paxlovid, and 18 and older for Merck’s Molnupiravir. These medications should be started as soon as possible after an individual has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, currently has mild to moderate symptoms, is within 5 days of those symptoms starting for whom alternate authorized treatments are not appropriate or available, who is most likely to end up hospitalized or not survive disease complications, and who meets the medication qualifications.

The medications hold several contraindications and/or precautions as well as potential side effects. Contraindications and precautions, as outlined in the EUA fact sheets, must be discussed with a healthcare provider who is specifically licensed to prescribe the medication (at this time, licensed physicians, advance practice nurses, and physician assistants). Potential side effects should also be communicated by the prescribing healthcare provider.

Please review each authorized medication’s fact sheet for healthcare providers:

- Pfizer’s Paxlovid: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>
- Merck’s Molnupiravir: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download>

The medications are in extremely limited supply nationally and in West Virginia. While in limited supply, the medications will be carried by specific locations across the state, which require (1) a prescription and (2) documented confirmation of a positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen test (PCR preferred). The locations with medication supply are dispersed to facilitate equitable distribution and access for all West Virginians.

See the attached Appendix for a list of all carrying locations. Updated information about locations is also available by calling the WV COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-887-4304.

Prescribers with patients whom they determine are eligible for an oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19 should first contact one of the carrying locations to determine whether the medication is in available supply. Prescribers will be required to provide documentation of the positive COVID-19 PCR or antigen test (PCR preferred) with their prescription. Prescribers are encouraged to include a “do not fill after” date on the prescription, corresponding to the sixth day after onset of the patient’s symptoms (again, the patient should start the prescribed course of medication within 5 days of symptom onset).

Oral antiviral treatments may help prevent hospitalization and death among certain individuals who qualify and start the prescribed course within the recommended time frame. Oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 are not a substitute for vaccination in individuals for whom COVID-19 vaccination and a booster dose are recommended. COVID-19 vaccination remains the strongest, most effective, and most readily available tool to protect against COVID-19.

Fact sheets for the two authorized oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19 for patients and caregivers follows:

- Pfizer’s Paxlovid: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155051/download>
- Merck’s Molnupiravir: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155055/download>

For questions about this advisory, contact the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS) at 1-800-423-1271, ext. 1; 304-558-5358, ext. 2; or the 24/7 answering service at 304-342-5151.