



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

Radio Script:

Not about vaccines! This is about a COVID-19 medicine and treatment! Part 2

Developed: March 1, 2022

Hello/Boozhoo. This is _____.

So far in this pandemic, we have learned a lot about the COVID-19 vaccines. They continue to be very effective to help prevent or lessen the risk of severe COVID-19 symptoms. But what happens if you do get COVID-19?

There is some good news. In Canada, we now have new medicines and treatments for some people who are ill with COVID-19.

One such treatment is called Paxlovid. *Paxlovid provides an anti-viral one-two-punch against COVID-19.* It consists of two medicines that work together called Nirmatrelvir (Nir-ma-trel-vir) and Ritonavir (Ri-ton-a-vir). Paxlovid stops the virus from multiplying inside you. This could prevent severe symptoms from setting in, hospitalization, or death.

This treatment is mainly for people 18 years of age and older, who have tested positive for COVID-19 and who are at high risk of getting severe COVID-19 that could lead to hospitalization or death.

It works best if given as soon as COVID-19 is confirmed and very soon after symptoms have started. It can help greatly reduce your symptoms and help you to recover faster.

Paxlovid is a five-day course of tablets that you take twice a day, once in the morning and again at night.

Some common side effects include change to your sense of taste, diarrhea, muscle pain, vomiting, high blood pressure, and headache. This is a new treatment, so like the vaccines in the beginning, we are still learning about it.



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It is important to know that side effects from this medication are short-term. They go away after a few days. Harmful effects from *a COVID-19 infection* can be more serious and last for a long time.

It is also important to know that Paxlovid does not take the place of vaccines. They still offer the best protection *before* a COVID-19 infection. But Paxlovid could make a big difference in your personal fight against COVID-19.

If you have more questions about Paxlovid, you can talk with a trusted healthcare worker. You can also email your questions anytime to acwinfo@slfnha.com. Join us live during our Facebook Q and A events with Dr. Lloyd Douglas on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm central time. You can ask questions in the chat, or you can email your questions anonymously beforehand to acwinfo@slfnha.com.

Please continue to practice all the recommended public health measures. They help slow the spread of COVID-19 and help us all live healthier lives.

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