



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### COVID-19 Anti-viral Treatments

April 20, 2022

If you get COVID-19 and are at high risk of having severe symptoms, you might be able to use an antiviral.

#### What is an antiviral?

An antiviral is a medicine or treatment that you can use to fight the COVID-19 virus if you are infected. They stop the virus from multiplying inside you and/or by blocking the virus from entering your cells.

#### Which ones are available in Ontario?

There are two antiviral treatments approved for use in Ontario. Pfizer-Paxlovid is one that can be taken by mouth at home. It works best if it is started in the first 5 days of symptoms. Remdesivir is one that is given by IV in a health care setting. It works best if started in the first 7 days of symptoms. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, your health care provider might suggest one of these treatments if you are eligible. Both are free of charge. If you are in an urban setting, you will need a prescription. Pfizer-Paxlovid is available at certain pharmacies. You can find out which ones at this website: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-antiviral-treatment>

#### How do I know if I am eligible?

You can use an online screening tool to find out if you are eligible. But the best approach is to call the nursing station to be assessed and tested as soon as you have symptoms. The sooner you confirm a COVID-19 infection, the sooner you can start antiviral treatments. The online address for the screening tool is: [www.covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener/](http://www.covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener/)



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The following people are eligible to receive COVID-19 antiviral treatments:

- anyone 70+ years of age
- anyone 60+ years of age who has less than 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine
- anyone who is 18+ and is immune compromised
- anyone 18+ years of age who has less than 3 doses of COVID-19 vaccine and **at least one risk factor**:
  - obesity
  - diabetes
  - heart disease
  - congestive heart failure
  - high blood pressure
  - chronic lung disease
  - kidney or liver disease
  - disabled intellect or development
  - pregnant
  - not vaccinated

### Do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes. Antivirals do not replace COVID-19 vaccination. They *help to lower the risk* of severe symptoms and the need for hospital or advanced care. The best outcomes are seen in people who are fully vaccinated compared to those who are not. If you cannot be vaccinated, ask your health care provider which antiviral would be best for you.

The vaccine is available at all the nursing stations. Call them for an appointment. If you are in an urban setting, most pharmacies offer the vaccine. Many places also have mass vaccine clinics. Check the local listings for more info.

### Questions?

**Write to us anytime** at [ACWinfo@slfna.com](mailto:ACWinfo@slfna.com). You can also join us for a Facebook Live Q and A with Dr. Lloyd Douglas on Wednesdays at 5:00 pm central time.

You can learn more about these antivirals on our website: [www.slfna.com/covid](http://www.slfna.com/covid)