



June 28, 2022

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, we have more tools than ever to protect the health of Ohioans, especially our most vulnerable. Some of the most important tools we have in the ongoing fight against COVID-19 are treatments that can keep those at highest risk for severe illness out of the hospital, and even save their lives.

Treatments are now available for those who need them. Ohio has built a strong infrastructure of providers for oral antiviral pills and monoclonal antibodies that includes hospitals, federally qualified health centers, retail pharmacies, and long-term care pharmacies across the state. In addition, the national [Test to Treat](#) initiative gives individuals who may not have a healthcare home a way to quickly access testing, consult with a qualified provider, and access treatment for COVID-19, if deemed eligible.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) asks healthcare providers across the state to help increase awareness of these life-saving treatments and help patients understand how they can access those treatments quickly if eligible.

ODH has compiled a list of important information and resources about COVID-19 treatments for healthcare providers and the general public available at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov) in the [COVID-19 Testing and Treatment](#) section.

In addition, we want to make sure every healthcare provider in Ohio is aware of the key information below as you treat patients who might benefit from COVID-19 therapeutics, and offer some key messages to reinforce with your patients.

- COVID-19 treatments, including oral antiviral medications and monoclonal antibody therapies, are highly effective and important tools for preventing severe illness, including hospitalization and death, for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are in the early stage of illness.
- COVID-19 therapeutics are not a substitute for vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective and offer the best ongoing protection against serious illness from COVID-19. Our priority in prevention remains educating the public about the importance of protection by vaccination, and the importance of staying up to date on those vaccinations.
- Therapeutics are another powerful tool for our most vulnerable Ohioans age 65 and older or people with weakened immune systems or certain underlying medical conditions.
- Evusheld, a preventive medication, can bolster protection for people at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19 who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and may not have had an adequate immune response to the vaccines. It also can benefit

people who are unable to receive COVID-19 vaccines due to severe reactions to the vaccine or its ingredients.

- Supplies of COVID-19 treatments remain limited, but treatments are available across Ohio and accessible for patients at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. However, the most current information from the federal government estimates that supplies of the monoclonal antibody Bebtelovimab will last only into July 2022, and supplies of the oral antiviral Paxlovid are expected to last through approximately November or December 2022. As such, providers are encouraged to utilize these drugs for patients at high risk, but to recognize the scarcity of the supply in order to maximize the availability of treatments for as long as possible.
- All therapeutics require a prescription, and time is of the essence for a patient to access treatments once they get COVID-19. It's crucial that our providers are aware of all current treatments, which patients qualify for each treatment, how to quickly connect patients with appropriate treatment in Ohio, and how supply and demand might impact access, especially in the event of a future surge.

## WEBINAR, RESOURCES FOR PROVIDERS

The [Ohio Hospital Association](#) (OHA) has recorded a webinar for healthcare providers focused on COVID-19 treatments featuring infectious disease specialists covering indications for use, high-risk criteria, renal function considerations, dispensing considerations, side effects, warnings and precautions, contraindications, and drug interactions.

Presenters include Dr. Joe Gastaldo, OhioHealth Medical Director of Infectious Diseases; Dr. Carlos Malvestutto, associate professor in the division of infectious diseases in the department of medicine with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center; and Dr. Steven Gordon, chairman of the Department of Infectious Diseases at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and associate professor at Case Western Reserve University.

Providers can view a recording of the webinar [Oral COVID-19 Antivirals With a Focus on Paxlovid](#) on the Ohio Hospital Association YouTube channel, or at the direct link <https://youtu.be/Zcq5tapzICl>.

In addition, the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) has compiled a variety of resources and educational tools – available on the [OSMA website](#) – to help providers continue to educate patients about the availability of COVID-19 treatments.

## KEY RESOURCES

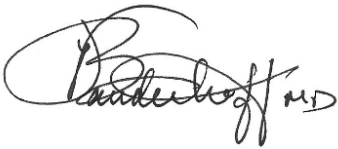
Providers can access resources and clinical guidance for COVID-19 treatments through the following resources:

- ODH [COVID-19 Testing and Treatment](#) webpage
- ODH [Information and Resources for Healthcare Providers about COVID-19 Treatments](#)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
  - [COVID-19 Treatments and Therapeutics](#)
  - [Side-by-Side Overview: Outpatient Therapies Authorized for Treatment of Mild-Moderate COVID-19 \(HHS\)](#)
- [HHS COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)
- Ohio Hospital Association Webinar: [Oral COVID-19 Antivirals With a Focus on Paxlovid](#)
- Ohio State Medical Association: [COVID-19 Treatments & Testing: What to Know](#)

Thank you for your continued partnership in protecting our most vulnerable Ohioans from severe illness from COVID-19 through access to life-saving treatments.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [therapeutics@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:therapeutics@odh.ohio.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Vanderhoff MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "V".

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA  
Director of Health  
Ohio Department of Health