



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PAXLOVID

February 25, 2022

Michigan.gov/Coronavirus

On December 22, 2021, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the medication PAXLOVID. PAXLOVID is an oral antiviral medication used to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in patients 12 years of age and older, weighing at least 40 kg (88 lbs.) and who are at high risk for severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

A health care provider will determine whether PAXLOVID is an appropriate treatment for COVID-19. This medication is currently in limited supply and is available in select local pharmacies. It is important to remember that this medication is not a substitute for the COVID-19 vaccine.

How does PAXLOVID work?

PAXLOVID keeps the virus that causes COVID-19 from reproducing, which helps rid the body of the virus and helps you get better.

How do I know if I am a candidate for PAXLOVID?

Your health care provider will determine if you are a candidate for PAXLOVID. At a minimum you must have mild-to-moderate COVID-19, be over 12 years of age and weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs.). It is for those who are at high risk for severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

Is there anything I need to tell the prescribing health care provider before PAXLOVID is ordered?

Please let your health care provider know if any of the following apply:

- Allergies.
- Liver or kidney disease.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding.
- Have any serious illness or medical history.
- If you are taking oral contraceptives.
- Provide a list of all current medications.

How is PAXLOVID given?

A qualified health care provider must prescribe PAXLOVID.

- 300 mg nirmatrelvir (two 150 mg tablets) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet).
- All three tablets taken together by mouth twice daily for five days.
- If you feel worse, or do not feel better after five days, contact your health care provider.
- Side effects may include liver problems, resistance to HIV medications, altered sense of taste, diarrhea, hypertension (high blood pressure) and muscle aches.

Further information for patients and caregivers: [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents, and Caregivers Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of Paxlovid](#)