California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Treatments

What are COVID-19 treatments?

COVID-19 treatments are medications (pills, shots, or IV) that can prevent serious symptoms and the need for hospital care after COVID-19 symptoms start.

A health care provider can tell you if you are eligible to receive treatment and which type would work best for you.

You can get treatments if you:

- Test positive for COVID-19 (get tested by your health care provider, at a Test to Treat site, pharmacy, or use an at-home test), AND
- Are more likely to get very sick (older than 50, unvaccinated, or have certain medical conditions*).

Treatments are available for both adults and children who qualify.

The sooner the better

Act quickly: Treatment must be started within days after you first develop symptoms to be effective.

How can I get treatments?

Option A: Contact your health care provider.

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, a health care provider can help you get tested and get a prescription for a treatment. You can then go to a pharmacy to receive your medication.
- If you do not have a health care provider, call 1-877-332-6585 to find out who to talk with about your symptoms and treatment.

Option B: Go to a Test to Treat location.

- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, you can get tested, get a prescription, and receive medication all in one place at a Test to Treat site.
- Find a location using the <u>Test to Treat locator</u>. You can also call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489).

What treatments are available?

There are different types of treatments. A health care provider or a Test to Treat location will tell you which treatment will be safest and work best for you. Treatments come in several forms including pills, IV, or shots.



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How much do treatments cost?

There is currently no cost for most COVID-19 treatments alone, but treating facilities may charge for the visit and related services like COVID-19 testing. Medicare, Medicaid, and some private insurance plans cover all costs, so check with your insurance plan. If you do not have insurance, ask the treatment facility if there are fees.

Do treatments replace COVID-19 vaccines?

No, vaccines are still our most effective way to prevent serious COVID-19 illness. Vaccines train your immune system before you get sick to fight against severe illness while treatments help people who are already sick to avoid severe illness.

Are there treatments that will keep me from getting COVID-19?

The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to get vaccinated and keep up to date with booster shots. However, if you have a weakened immune system or have had a severe reaction to a vaccine and you cannot be fully vaccinated, you may be eligible for Evusheld, which can prevent severe COVID-19 illness before an exposure. Talk to a healthcare provider to get more information.

Helpful information:

- <u>CDPH COVID-19 Treatments webpage</u>
- HHS Test to Treat locator or call 1-800-232-0233
- HHS Test to Treat Program information
- *CDC People with Certain Medical Conditions