

# COVID-19 TREATMENT

Oral medication for COVID-19 (Paxlovid™) is available free of charge from pharmacies. It can be prescribed by a pharmacist, a specialized nurse practitioner, or a doctor. The treatment is for **people with COVID-19** who are at high risk of complications.

## Who is eligible?

- Adults who are moderately to severely immunocompromised owing to an underlying condition or the treatment they are receiving for that condition (regardless of their vaccination status)
- People aged 60 or older who are not adequately vaccinated (fewer than two doses) or not protected against COVID-19
- People aged 18 or older who are not adequately vaccinated (fewer than two doses) or not protected against COVID-19 **and have one of the following health conditions:**
  - hemoglobinopathy
  - obesity (risk is higher with a body mass index of 35 or more)
  - diabetes (risk is higher if uncontrolled)
  - chronic kidney disease
  - liver failure
  - high blood pressure (risk is higher if uncontrolled)
  - cardiovascular and atherosclerotic disease
  - heart failure
  - chronic respiratory disease (for example, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or moderate to severe asthma)
- Adolescents weighing at least 40 kg (88 lb.) who have at least one of the conditions listed above and who are not adequately vaccinated (fewer than 2 doses) or not protected against COVID-19
- Pregnant women who have at least one of the conditions listed above and who are not adequately vaccinated (fewer than 2 doses) or not protected against COVID-19
- Exceptionally, adults who are adequately protected or vaccinated but are at very high risk of developing COVID-19 complications (for example, very old age, several co-existing medical conditions among those listed above, especially if uncontrolled).

## How to get access to Paxlovid?

1. Your first symptoms must have appeared **5 days ago or less.**
2. You must take a test (either a rapid test available from a pharmacy or at a testing clinic) **as soon as your symptoms start.**
3. If your test is positive and you meet the criteria listed on our website\*, **first call** your pharmacist to find out what to do next.

A specialized nurse practitioner or a doctor can also provide information.

Please note that the healthcare professional you see has the final say on whether the treatment is right for you. There are possible contraindications for this oral COVID-19 medication. In such situations, other treatments will be considered.

If you have COVID-19 and are at risk of developing serious complications, contact your pharmacist now for an assessment over the phone.

To learn more about this COVID-19 treatment:

[Québec.ca/COVIDTreatment](https://Quebec.ca/COVIDTreatment)