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Subject: Availability of Oral Antivirals for Treatment of COVID-19
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Availability of oral antiviral medications to treat COVID-19.

Two oral antiviral medications are now available

In late December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorizations for two oral antivirals for the treatment of COVID-19. These two antivirals are Pfizer’s Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, co-packaged) and Merck’s molnupiravir.

The oral antivirals are indicated for the outpatient treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in certain individuals with a positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19. Both antivirals must be started within 5 days of symptom onset.

Supply is limited

The oral antivirals are in extremely limited supply. The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has purchased these medications and is working with state and territorial departments of health to coordinate their distribution. HHS has established a federal pharmacy partnership program to stock and dispense these medications, and Idaho is coordinating with pharmacies that are part of this program.

Pharmacy locations

Given the constrained supply, only a small number of pharmacies in Idaho are receiving product at this time. These pharmacies are:

Pharmacy	Location	Phone #
Safeway	121 W Neider Ave Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815	(208) 765-4410
Sav-On	1024 21st St Lewiston, ID 83501	(208) 743-1529
Sav-On	715 12th Ave S Nampa, ID 83651	(208) 466-3592
Sav-On	909 East Parkcenter Blvd Boise, ID 83706	(208) 338-3722

Walmart	7319 W State St Boise, ID 83714	(208) 853-4780
Walmart	252 Cheney Dr W Twin Falls, ID 83301	(208) 736-3387
Sav-On	330 East Benton St Pocatello, ID 83201	(208) 233-0651
Sav-On	590 East 17th Street Idaho Falls, ID 83404	(208) 523-1090

Working with the pharmacy

Prior to writing a prescription for a patient, the provider should call the pharmacy to ensure availability of the medication. If possible, the patient should designate another individual to pick up the prescription to avoid entering the pharmacy while infectious with COVID-19. Alternatively, some pharmacies may have curbside delivery available. Providers should also include a “do not dispense after” date on the prescription since both antivirals need to be started within 5 days of symptom onset.

Special considerations

Providers will want to familiarize themselves with the emergency use authorization Fact Sheets for Providers (see “Resources,” below) for each of these products. Some special considerations include:

- Paxlovid has significant drug-drug interactions. Consult the full prescribing information prior to prescribing this medication.
- See the Paxlovid Fact Sheet for Providers regarding concerns about hepatotoxicity and HIV-1 drug resistance.
- Molnupiravir is authorized for use for certain high-risk individuals “for whom alternative COVID-19 treatment options authorized by FDA are not accessible or clinically appropriate.”
- The use of molnupiravir is not recommended during pregnancy or breastfeeding. There are special considerations when prescribing to females with childbearing potential and males of reproductive potential who are sexually active with females of childbearing potential. See the Fact Sheet for Providers for details.
- Molnupiravir is not authorized for use in patients younger than 18 years of age because molnupiravir may affect bone and cartilage growth.

Resources

Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers, Molnupiravir: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download>

Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers, Paxlovid: <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>

NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines: <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>