

**ADVISORY**  
**FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH & MENTAL HYGIENE**  
**OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, the New York City Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene declared the existence of a public health emergency within the City to address the continuing threat posed by COVID-19 to the health and welfare of City residents, and such declaration and public health emergency continue to be in effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) has issued emergency use authorizations for monoclonal antibodies (sotrovimab, bebtelovimab) and oral antivirals (Paxlovid, molnupiravir) for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in certain patients ages 12 and older who test positive for COVID-19; in October 2021, FDA approved and authorized remdesivir for the outpatient treatment of certain patients who test positive for COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment can improve symptoms, lower the risk of emergency department visits and hospitalization, reduce hospital length of stay, and lower the risk of death, with oral antivirals shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death by 30% (molnupiravir) to 88% (Paxlovid).

**THEREFORE, YOU ARE HEREBY PROVIDED NOTICE THAT:**

**1. Every patient who tests positive for COVID-19 should be assessed and offered treatment if they:**

- Are age 12 or older
- Weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds),
- Have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19, and
- Have at least one factor placing them at [high risk for progression to severe disease](#).

Refer to the [NIH Guidelines on Therapeutic Management of Non-hospitalized Adults With COVID-19](#) for detailed recommendations.

**2. Patients at [increased risk for severe COVID-19 should be informed](#) about the availability of treatments and advised to get tested immediately if they develop symptoms or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19 and of how to seek treatment.** Treatment can improve symptoms and lower the risk of hospitalization and death, and work best when given soon after symptom onset.

**3. Multiple COVID-19 treatment options are available and there are currently no supply shortages.** There are two types of treatments available for people diagnosed with COVID-19:

- a. Antivirals:** Administered soon after diagnosis, either orally within 5 days of symptom onset ([Paxlovid](#) and [molnupiravir](#)) or intravenously within 7 days of symptom onset ([remdesivir](#)). Paxlovid is the preferred treatment option for most for most high-risk, non-hospitalized patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 (NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines).

Oral antivirals can now be prescribed through several pharmacies in New York City, including Alto Pharmacy, which will deliver to the patient’s preferred address at no cost.<sup>1</sup>

- b. Monoclonal Antibody Treatment:** Provided intravenously within 7 days of symptom onset. [Bebtelovimab](#) is currently the only authorized product. [Sotrovimab](#) is no longer recommended due to

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<sup>1</sup> The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has partnered with Alto Pharmacy for free same or next day delivery of COVID-19 oral antivirals to New York City residents. See [nyc.gov/health/covidprovidertreatments](https://nyc.gov/health/covidprovidertreatments) for more information, including prescribing instructions.

lack of effectiveness against the BA.2 Omicron subvariant. Monoclonal antibody treatment sites in the New York City region can be found at [hitesite.org/monoclonalantibody](https://hitesite.org/monoclonalantibody).

Other facilities with oral antiviral and monoclonal antibody therapeutics in stock, including pharmacies participating in the federal [Test to Treat Program](#), can be found on the COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator at [covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com](https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com).

4. **Pre-exposure COVID-19 prophylaxis is recommended for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or unable to receive COVID-19 vaccination due to a severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine or their components.** Refer to [Health Advisory #4](#) for more information on [Evusheld](#) (tixagevimab and cilgavimab), an injectable long-acting monoclonal antibody combination.
5. **For more information** on prescribing, eligibility, clinical considerations, patient education, and other resources visit [nyc.gov/health/covidprovidertreatments](https://nyc.gov/health/covidprovidertreatments).