



Erie County
Department of
Health



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

HEALTH ADVISORY #362

October 10, 2024

COVID-19 TREATMENT CONTINUES TO REDUCE SEVERE ILLNESS

Please distribute to Healthcare Providers, Hospitals, Laboratories, Emergency Rooms, Community Health Centers, College Health Centers, and Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatric, Adolescent Medicine, Infectious Disease, and Primary Care Providers

SUMMARY

- COVID-19 illness remains a significant burden in Erie County and across New York State.
- Medical providers are asked to encourage patients to [stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines](#) and to advise patients contact them if they test positive for COVID-19, as both vaccination and treatment (antivirals) can reduce the chances of severe illness.
- Medical providers should consider COVID-19 treatment in patients with one or more risk factors for severe COVID-19 illness to reduce progression to hospitalization and death.
- [Risk factors for severe disease](#) include age > 50 years, vaccination status, specific medical conditions, immunocompromising conditions or use of immunosuppressive medications.
- Treatment (Antivirals) options include:
 - Oral
 - Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid) – for adults and children aged 12 years and older and at least 40kg, for 5 days with **≤ 5 days from illness onset**
 - Molnupiravir (Lagevrio) – for adults, for 5 days with **≤ 5 days from illness onset**
 - Intravenous
 - Remdesivir (Veklury) – for adults and children aged 28 days and older and at least 3kg, for 3 days with **≤ 7 days from illness onset**
 - Additional treatment options: [CDC COVID-19 Treatment Guidance](#)
- COVID-19 rebound has been reported to occur in some patients, including those treated with antivirals and those who did not take treatment. Treatment benefits outweigh the risks of rebound for patients at higher risk for severe disease from COVID-19.

RESOURCES

[CDC COVID-19 Treatment Guidance](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance](#)



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Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary

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