



ALAMEDA COUNTY HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1100 San Leandro Blvd
San Leandro, CA 94577

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Dear Specialists,

This communication is to provide information to assist you in identifying and providing COVID-19 treatment and pre-exposure prophylaxis to your eligible high-risk patients. The goal is ensuring the needed medications get to right people at the right time, equitably.

Purpose:

1. To provide updates on current therapies for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 in your high-risk patients.
2. To suggest ways to identify your high-risk patients and educate them about the increased availability of therapeutics.

As you know, the guidelines for [Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults With COVID-19 and Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Infection](#) have been frequently updated due to changes in prevalence and susceptibilities of current COVID-19 subvariants. *With the increased availability of most products, all eligible patients can and should be offered treatment.*

The NIH Panel [currently recommends](#) one of the following:

- **Preferred Therapies** (*Listed in order of preference*):
 - [Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir \(Paxlovid\)](#)
 - [Remdesivir \(BIIa\)](#)
- **Alternative Therapies** *For use ONLY when neither of the preferred therapies are available, feasible to use, or clinically appropriate. Listed in alphabetical order:*
 - [Bebtelovimab \(CIII\)](#)
 - [Molnupiravir \(CIIa\)](#)

We recommend the following strategies for identifying and treating your [high-risk patients](#):

- **Pre-Screen if possible**
 - Identify your patients at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19 illness (hospitalization/death)
 - Review their medical records routinely or during scheduled visits
 - Notify high-risk patients that treatment is available if they get COVID-19 and what to do if they test positive
- **Identify moderately and severely immunosuppressed patients and/or those unvaccinated/boosted due to severe vaccine allergies**
 - Screen these patients for Evusheld eligibility before they develop COVID-19 or are exposed
 - Provide information and counseling
 - Connect patients to a location where they can receive Evusheld

- **Act quickly on positive test results or suspected COVID-19 illness**
 - *Accept positive home antigen test results!* Have a procedure for having patients report positive home lab tests to you.
 - Consider using a point-of care-antigen test if COVID-19 illness is suspected and testing is needed. If ordering a PCR test, ensure that the lab has a quick turn-around-time.
 - Have a process for checking lab results as soon as possible.
 - Have a procedure for quick notification of positive patients
 - Screen patient for eligibility using current NIH criteria for treatment and prioritization. This can be done via a telehealth visit.
 - Provide script for staff who may be notifying patient of a positive result and their eligibility for treatment.
- **Prescribe/Direct patients to medications**
 - Review medication/allergy records including over-the-counter and herbal products
 - Use available [drug interaction data bases](#) as needed
 - Identify locations for patients to get therapeutics
 - In-house pharmacy if possible
 - A [nearby participating pharmacy](#)
 - An available infusion center if needed
 - **Total Infusion:** <https://totalinfusion.com/make-a-referral/>
 - **UCSF:** [UCSF External Self or Provider Referral for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Outpatient Treatment \(PDF\)](#)
 - **Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto:** Contact DL-SHC-Pharmacy-COVID@stanfordhealthcare.org or call (650) 391-8503. [COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapies - Patients | Stanford Health Care](#)

Other References:

- [Outpatient Therapies for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 in High-Risk Patients in Alameda County](#)
- [Prioritization of Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Therapies for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 When There Are Logistical or Supply Constraints](#)
- [Patient flyer: Don't Delay: Test Soon and Treat Early \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir \(Paxlovid\): What Prescribers and Pharmacists Need to Know](#)
- NIH Guidelines: [Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir \(Paxlovid\)](#)

For clinical questions **about treatment with COVID-19 outpatient therapeutic products**, please contact Arnie Spanjers, MD, Alameda County Public Health Department at arnie.spanjers@acgov.org

For questions regarding the distribution of COVID-19 outpatient therapeutic products within ALCO, please contact Cynthia Frankel, RN, Alameda County Therapeutics Distribution Lead at cynthia.frankel@acgov.org

Respectfully,

Alameda County Public Health Department