

**COVID-19 Therapeutics Update – Paxlovid & Molnupiravir
 December 28, 2021**

Background

Pfizer’s *Paxlovid* and Merck’s *Molnupiravir* received FDA EUA^{1,2} for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19.

Clinical Considerations and Criteria

Supply of these anti-virals is extremely limited, and demand is expected to exceed supply. Both drugs are prescription only. Healthcare providers should review the EUA prior to prescribing either treatment, consider treatment initiation timelines, potential drug interactions and risks/benefits.

These anti-virals are authorized for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in the following individuals:

Drug	Age	Criteria
Paxlovid	Adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg)	Positive result for SARS-CoV-2; AND At high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death
Molnupiravir	Adult Patients (18 years of age and older)	Positive result for SARS-CoV-2; AND At high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death; AND Other FDA-authorized treatments for COVID-19 are inaccessible or not clinically appropriate.

Patients should only receive Paxlovid or Molnupiravir if they have symptomatic disease meeting the criteria as defined by the NIH³:

- *Mild Illness*: Individuals who have any of the various signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, malaise, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste and smell) but who do not have shortness of breath, dyspnea, or abnormal chest imaging.
- *Moderate Illness*: Individuals who show evidence of lower respiratory disease during clinical assessment or imaging and who have an oxygen saturation (SpO₂) ≥ 94% on room air at sea level.

Locations

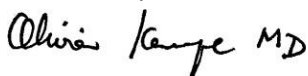
See attachment: COVID-19 Oral Anti-Viral Treatment Locations

Resources

1. <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>
2. <https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download>
3. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/clinical-spectrum/>

Sincerely,

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS



Public Health Officer