

## Antiviral Treatment Timeline

Antiviral drugs are important tools to help treat COVID-19 and flu that can help lessen symptoms and lower the risk of hospitalization—especially for people at higher risk for serious illness. **Antivirals are prescription-only treatments that must be given early in illness, after the first symptoms begin.**

Flu and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. You cannot tell the difference between flu and COVID-19 by the symptoms alone because they have some of the same signs and symptoms. Specific testing is needed to tell what the illness is and to confirm a diagnosis. **Getting treated early for COVID-19 and flu can reduce your risk of getting very sick.**

## COVID-19 ANTIVIRALS

If you are 50 and over, have diabetes, cancer, mental health conditions, obesity, asthma, or a number of other health conditions, you may have a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. If you get COVID-19, there are two oral antiviral medicines available to help reduce your risk—Paxlovid and Lagevrio. There is also one intravenous (IV) option—Veklury (Remdesivir)—that is given in a healthcare facility.

It's important to act quickly for the best results. **At the first sign of any symptoms like fever, cough or trouble breathing, take a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, contact a healthcare provider to talk about treatment.**

### ORAL ANTIVIRAL TREATMENTS FOR COVID-19

▸ **Must be started within 5 days after symptoms appear.**

#### DAY 1

▸ **Symptoms Begin:** At the first sign of any symptoms like fever, cough or trouble breathing, take a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, contact a healthcare provider to talk about treatment.

#### DAY 1-5

▸ There is a short window of time to start an oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

**Paxlovid (adults and children 12 years of age and older):** Oral medication that needs to be taken as soon as possible and up to 5 days after the first symptoms start.

**Lagevrio (adults):** Oral medication that needs to be taken as soon as possible and up to 5 days after the first symptoms start.

### IV ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT FOR COVID-19

▸ **Must be started within 7 days after symptoms appear.**

#### DAY 1

▸ **Symptoms Begin:** At the first sign of any symptoms like fever, cough or trouble breathing, take a COVID-19 test. If the test is positive, contact a healthcare provider to talk about treatment.

#### DAY 1-5

▸ There is a short window of time to start an IV antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

**Veklury (adults and children at least 28 days old and weighing 7 lbs.):** An IV medicine given in a healthcare facility that must be given as soon as possible and up to 7 days after symptoms begin.

Sources: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html), [cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm](https://cdc.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm)



For more information about symptoms and risks visit:  
**[cveep.org/respiratory](https://cveep.org/respiratory)**

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