

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Provider or Pharmacist About COVID-19 and Flu Treatments

Getting COVID-19 or the flu doesn't have to make you really sick. Antiviral medicines can help stop these viruses from spreading in your body and help you feel better faster. Starting treatment within the first few days after symptoms begin can keep you from getting worse and lower your chance of ending up in the hospital.

Act fast—the sooner you start treatment, the better it works. **This guide can help you talk with your doctor, pharmacist, or another health care provider. Asking questions now can help you know what treatments are available and how to get them if you do get sick.**



General Questions

- ❓ If I test positive for COVID-19 or flu, what treatment options are available to me?
- ❓ How do these treatments work and what benefits should I expect?
- ❓ Who is most likely to benefit from treatment?



Timing and Access

- ❓ How soon after symptoms start should I begin treatment? Is the timing different for COVID-19 and flu?
- ❓ How do I get tested and treated quickly if I start feeling sick?
- ❓ Can treatment be prescribed over the phone or through telehealth?



Safety and Effectiveness

- ❓ How effective are these treatments at reducing severe illness or hospitalization?
- ❓ Are there any side effects I should be aware of?
- ❓ Do these treatments interact with medications I'm already taking?



Practical Considerations

- ❓ Where can I fill a prescription for these treatments? Are they available at my local pharmacy?
- ❓ How much do these treatments cost, and are they covered by insurance?
- ❓ What should I do if I don't have insurance or access to a regular doctor?



Planning Ahead

- ❓ Should I have a plan in place in case I get sick? What should that look like?
- ❓ Is there anything I can do now to make it easier to get treatment quickly if I need it?

Don't wait until you're very sick to ask about treatment. These medications work best when started within the first few days of symptoms.