



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To:	Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From:	Gail Newel, MD, MPH, County Health Officer
Subject:	COVID-19 Outpatient Antiviral Medications in Santa Cruz County
Date:	January 14, 2022

Situational Update:

As you are aware, there are a number of oral and injectable antiviral medications becoming available for COVID-19. Unfortunately, those effective against Omicron are in short supply and limited allocations have been distributed to Santa Cruz County via the [Federal and State allocation process](#).

Due to the extraordinary number of cases of COVID-19 we are currently experiencing, and the increasing strain on our health care system, it is critical that these limited supplies are allocated in a manner that provides your patients and the community with the greatest benefit. Generally, those patients most at risk of developing severe disease, hospitalization and death should be [prioritized](#) as suggested by NIH.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At this time, Paxlovid and Sotrovimab is limited to Tier 1 patients. As supplies improve, we hope to expand to additional tiers (Table 1). Table 2 shows a summary of the current antiviral and prophylactic medications, listed in order of preference, available in our County. Click on the medication name for an FDA fact sheet. A helpful CDC webinar on this topic can be found [here](#).

To assist you, infectious disease specialists Drs. John Kaufmann and Sunita Singh have graciously offered to be available to you for consultation when you are considering writing a prescription for Paxlovid, Sotrovimab and Evusheld. Call the Dominican operator at 831-462-7700. They can provide clinical advice as well as direct you to the most appropriate sources based on logistical and supply limitations. Sotrovimab infusions are also available at Watsonville Community Hospital. Molnupiravir is available at select CVS pharmacies. **Please do not send patients to the emergency department for treatment or testing unless they need emergency care.**

As supplies improve, we hope to have these medications widely available, including in participating pharmacies in the county. We intend to keep you informed as the situation evolves.

Table 1

Patient Prioritization Risk Groups

Tier	Characteristics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunocompromised, not expected to mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccine or SARS-CoV-2 infection due to their underlying conditions, regardless of vaccine status; or • Unvaccinated individuals at the highest risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥ 75 years or anyone aged ≥ 65 years with additional risk factors).
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvaccinated individuals at risk of severe disease not included in Tier 1 (anyone aged ≥ 65 years or anyone aged < 65 years with clinical risk factors)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinated individuals at high risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥ 75 years or anyone aged ≥ 65 years with clinical risk factors) <p>Note: Vaccinated individuals who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are likely at higher risk for severe disease; patients in this situation within this tier should be prioritized for treatment.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinated individuals at risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥ 65 years or anyone aged < 65 with clinical risk factors) <p>Note: Vaccinated individuals who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are likely at higher risk for severe disease; patients in this situation within this tier should be prioritized for treatment.</p>

<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov>

Table 2

	<u>Evusheld</u>	<u>Paxlovid</u>	<u>Sotrovimab</u>	<u>Remdesivir</u>	<u>Molnupiravir</u>
Age allowed for use	≥ 12 yr.	≥ 12 yr.	≥ 12 yr.	≥ 12 yr.	≥ 18 yr.
Initiate within # days of symptoms onset	Prior to infection	< 5 days	< 10 days	< 7 days	< 5 days
Route of Administration	IM	PO	IV	IV	PO
Duration of Therapy	One time	5 days	One Time	3 days	5 days
Pros	High efficacy	- High efficacy - Oral	- High efficacy - Single IV infusion	- High efficacy - Greater experience	- Oral - No drug-drug interaction concerns
Cons	Cannot be used for treatment or post exposure prophylaxis	- Ritonavir-related drug- drug interactions - Not recommended for GFR < 30	Requires IV infusion	- Requires 3 days of IV infusion - Not FDA approved for outpatient	- Low efficacy - Not authorized for age 12-17 years - Not approved for pregnancy - Concerns for mutagenicity
Supply Availability	Limited supply	Limited supply	Limited supply	Commercially available	More supply than Paxlovid & Sotrovimab

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- CDC Webinar
 - https://www.emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2022/011222_slide.pdf
- Therapeutics overview
 - <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/therapeutics/Pages/Side-by-Side-Overview-of-mAbs-Treatment.aspx>
- EUA Documents:
 - <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization>
- Scientific Review Documents:
 - <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/coronavirus-covid-19-drugs/cder-scientific-review-documents-supporting-emergency-use-authorizations-drug-and-biological>



Public Health
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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; unlikely to require immediate action.