New medications can help prevent severe illness

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved or issued emergency use authorization for a variety of therapeutics to treat COVID-19. These medications are for those at high-risk for severe COVID-19 and require a doctor’s prescription. Treatment must begin no later than five or seven days after symptoms begin depending on which medication is prescribed.

If you are high-risk and test positive, contact your health care provider immediately to ask if COVID-19 treatments are right for you.


WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
Those at high risk for severe COVID-19 including those 65 and older, those with heart, lung, liver, or kidney disease, diabetes, pregnancy, dementia, cancer, asthma, disability, substance use disorder, mental health disorder, overweight/obesity and the immunocompromised are candidates for therapeutics.

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE
Evusheld is a pre-exposure medicine that can be prescribed to people with moderate to severe immune compromise.

COVID-19 treatments are not a substitute for COVID-19 vaccinations. Everyone is encouraged to get up to date on their vaccinations as soon as possible.

Additional information available at http://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics

2 TYPES OF TREATMENTS

Some treatments are administered orally. Others are administered by intravenous infusion.

Antivirals (Paxlovid, Veklury, Lagevrio)
Antiviral medicines target specific parts of the COVID-19 virus preventing the virus from replicating properly.

Monoclonal antibody therapy (Bebtelovimab)
Monoclonal antibodies can block viruses by not allowing them to attach and enter human cells.