



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

Public Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To:	Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From:	Gail Newel, MD, MPH, County Health Officer
Subject:	UPDATE on COVID-19 Outpatient Antiviral Medications in Santa Cruz County
Date:	May 10, 2022

Situational Update:

Following last winter's highly infectious Omicron surge (BA.1), subsequent known variants (BA.2, BA 2.12.1, BA.4 and BA.5) continue to emerge which are progressively transmissible. Unfortunately, we are starting to see another significant uptick in cases in Santa Cruz County, likely due to these variants.

Fortunately, there are a number of widely available oral and injectable antiviral medications for COVID-19. These therapeutic agents are extremely helpful in minimizing the duration and severity of disease, and most importantly, in preventing hospitalization and death. Supplies of many medications have improved significantly, and current stocks appear to be underutilized in our county. **Medications no longer need be limited to the tiers mentioned in previous health advisories.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to benefit a greater proportion of your patients we recommend expansion of eligibility to all at high-risk. Healthcare providers should consider the benefit-risk for the individual patient. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has compiled a list of medical conditions that meet the criteria for high-risk, which can be found [here](#). In addition, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has assembled [Questions and Answers: Treatment Information for Providers and Facilities](#).

The list of available therapeutics are as follows:

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis:

- Evusheld

Post-Exposure Outpatient Treatment*:

Oral Antivirals

- Paxlovid
- Molnupiravir

Injectable Antivirals

- Bebtelovimab
- Remdesivir

*Note: To be effective, post-exposure treatment must be initiated as soon as possible from the time of symptoms or diagnosis. Generally, oral medications should be started no later than 5 days, and injectable medications within 10 days. It is essential that our health care delivery system has protocols in place to minimize the time interval between testing and treatment.

Side by side summary of current antiviral and prophylactic medications can be found [here](#).

The local inventory of medications can be found [here](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [NIH – COVID Treatment Guidelines](#)
- [CDPH COVID Treatments](#)
- [CDC: People with Certain Medical Conditions \(may be at higher risk for severe COVID illness\)](#)
- [CDPH Questions and Answers: Treatment Information for Providers and Facilities](#)
- [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)
- [Revisions to Evusheld Dosing](#)
- www.santacruzhealth.org/covidtreatments

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

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.