

# Who should take COVID-19 treatments?

## Most adults and some teens!

### Safe, highly effective, free, widely available, and recommended for:

#### Anyone 12 years old and older who:

- Has COVID-19 symptoms, AND
- Has tested positive for COVID-19, AND
- Has certain experiences and conditions that put them at higher risk for worse COVID-19 illness. **That's most adults and some teens!** The list is broad and includes:
  - » Being 50 years of age and older
  - » Having common experiences and conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, being physical inactive, smoking (either past or present), asthma, mental health conditions like depression, and many more. See here for a comprehensive list: [covid19.ca.gov/treatment](https://covid19.ca.gov/treatment).
  - » Being unvaccinated or not up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination



### As soon as you start to feel sick, act quickly to take a COVID-19 test and get free COVID-19 treatment.

COVID-19 treatments must be taken early, within **5-7 days of when symptoms begin!** Do not wait until your illness gets worse.

#### Why should you take COVID-19 treatment when your illness is still mild?

- Scientific evidence shows that COVID-19 treatments are **highly effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 by up to 88%**. For example, people who take Paxlovid **are up to 8 times less likely to need hospitalization and 10 times less likely to die from COVID-19**.
- Treatments like the Paxlovid pill can also **stop the virus from multiplying in your body and infecting more of your cells**, so they can help you **test negative sooner**.
- Early evidence also suggests COVID-19 treatment may lower the risk of developing long COVID — which are symptoms and medical issues that can last for weeks, months, or years after a COVID-19 infection.

Call your health care provider or urgent care center or call the statewide COVID-19 hotline at 833-422-4255 to find free COVID-19 treatment.

Learn more about COVID-19 treatments at [covid19.ca.gov/treatment](https://covid19.ca.gov/treatment).

