

Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Test to Treat

The Biden-Harris Administration launched a new nationwide Test to Treat initiative to give individuals an important new way to quickly access free lifesaving treatment for COVID-19. Through this program, people are able to get tested and – if they are positive and treatments are appropriate for them – receive a prescription from a health care provider, and have their prescription filled all at one location. These “One-Stop Test to Treat” sites are available at hundreds of locations nationwide, including pharmacy-based clinics, Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA)-supported federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs), and long-term care facilities. People can continue to be tested and treated by their own health care providers who can appropriately prescribe these oral antivirals at locations where the medicines are distributed.

While vaccination continues to provide the best protection against COVID-19, therapies are now available to help treat eligible people who do get sick. The Biden-Harris Administration has invested in a medicine cabinet of COVID-19 treatments, which includes two oral antiviral pills – Pfizer’s Paxlovid and Merck’s Lagevrio (molnupiravir) – that can help prevent severe illness and hospitalization when taken within five days of first COVID-19 symptoms.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) already distributes COVID-19 treatments, including oral antivirals, to states and territories for free on a weekly basis. All qualified health care providers can prescribe these therapeutics to patients who are at increased risk for developing severe COVID-19.

In March, HHS began distributing oral antiviral pills directly to participating Test to Treat pharmacy-based clinics, making more treatments available to more people in more locations. ASPR also launched a program for long-term care pharmacies to directly order these antivirals to facilitate increased access for eligible long-term care residents who are at increased risk for developing severe COVID-19.

These pharmacy-based clinics and long-term care facilities join hundreds of HRSA-supported FQHCs in our hardest-hit and most vulnerable communities – these centers provide access for people to get tested, receive a prescription from a health care provider if appropriate, and have their prescription filled, all at one convenient location.

Building upon the existing distribution of oral antivirals to thousands of locations across all states and territories, the Test to Treat initiative is part of a broader strategy to quickly connect eligible individuals who are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 to appropriate treatments. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is also connecting our nation’s veterans who test positive at VA medical centers directly to treatment. For more information regarding available COVID-19 treatments, visit aspr.hhs.gov.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Test to Treat Initiative

What pharmacy-based clinics, health centers, and long-term care facilities have partnered with HHS as part of the Test to Treat initiative?

Some of the nation's largest pharmacy chains are participating. The participating locations have health clinics associated with health care providers who can prescribe these COVID-19 therapies to eligible people who need them. These oral antivirals may only be prescribed by a qualified health care provider. There are also hundreds of federally-qualified health centers already participating in our hardest-hit and most vulnerable communities. Additional long-term care facilities that serve high-risk residents are also on board.

Which treatments will participating Test to Treat locations receive?

Sites participating in the initiative receive the COVID-19 oral antiviral pills from Merck (Lagevrio) and Pfizer (Paxlovid) through direct allocations from HHS/ASPR.

How does the Test to Treat program work?

Individuals are able to get tested – and if they are positive and eligible for treatment – to receive an appropriate prescription from a qualified health care provider, and have their prescription filled all at one location. Individuals who receive COVID-19 test results through at-home tests or another testing site can also utilize a Test to Treat location to receive a prescription from a qualified health care provider and treatment on the spot if eligible. Some Test to Treat sites also have telehealth options available.

Will there be a Test to Treat site near me?

The initial launch of the Test to Treat initiative included hundreds of federally-qualified health centers, pharmacy-based clinics, and long-term care facilities across the country. HHS will continue to enroll additional sites in the coming weeks as the program expands. In addition to the Test to Treat sites, states and territories will also continue to receive oral antiviral pills available for distribution throughout their jurisdictions.

How do people find Test to Treat sites?

People can visit the [COVID-19 Test to Treat locator](https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/) at <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>. Individuals with difficulty accessing the internet or who need additional support finding a location can call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489) to get help in English, Spanish, and more than 150 other languages – 8am to midnight ET, 7 days a week. The [Disability Information and Access Line](#) (DIAL) is also available to specifically help people with disabilities access services. To get help, call 1-888-677-1199, Monday-Friday from 9am to 8pm ET or email DIAL@usaginganddisability.org.

Will the Test to Treat program reduce the amount of oral antiviral treatments that a state or territory receives?

No; this program has a separate federal supply that will not impact current state and territory allocations. The Test to Treat program is not intended to interfere with or supplant existing allocation protocols, but rather to offer more options for eligible people to quickly access needed care.

Are pharmacists themselves able to prescribe the oral antiviral pills (Paxlovid and Lagevrio)?

No. The Test to Treat initiative includes sites that have health care providers available to provide timely and thorough assessment and discussion relevant to oral antiviral treatment option(s), consistent with FDA requirements regarding these drugs. The Test to Treat initiative does not change existing requirements for a qualified health care provider to write the prescription.

Can I get oral antivirals through my regular health care provider?

Yes. Qualified health care providers can continue to prescribe oral antivirals to eligible patients who are at increased risk of developing severe COVID-19, including via telehealth. Patients will be able to have prescriptions filled wherever antivirals are being distributed, to include Test to Treat sites.

Can I bring at-home test results to a Test to Treat site for assessment to receive treatment?

Yes. The Test to Treat initiative does not require that an individual is tested at the Test to Treat site.

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