



Guidance for Providers About Use of Paxlovid

December 23, 2021

Background

On December 22, 2021, the United States Food and Drug Administration granted Pfizer Pharmaceuticals an [Emergency Use Authorization](#) for Paxlovid, the first oral antiviral medication active against SARS-CoV-2. The [fact sheet](#) authorized by the Food and Drug Administration details prescribing information about this new therapeutic agent to combat the COVID pandemic.

About Paxlovid

Paxlovid consists of two medications, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, which are co-packaged for oral use. This medicine is authorized for people 12 or older and who weigh at least 40 kilograms. The course of treatment is only indicated for five days and the prescription includes 30 tablets. Nirmatrelvir is a protease inhibitor of SARS-CoV-2, and ritonavir is used to boost levels of the drug.

Recommended Use of Paxlovid

Prescribers are advised there is **significantly limited supply**. Given the high number of cases currently in Rhode Island and across the country, we anticipate that demand for this medication will exceed available supply. At this time, Paxlovid is for **outpatient treatment only** and should be used in people with conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 including:

- Older age (for example ≥ 65 years of age)
- Obesity, BMI higher than 35
- Immunosuppressive disease or immunosuppressive treatment
- Cardiovascular disease (including congenital heart disease) or hypertension
- Chronic lung diseases (for example, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma [moderate-to-severe], interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis and pulmonary hypertension)
- Sickle cell disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (for example, cerebral palsy) or other conditions that confer medical complexity (for example, genetic or metabolic syndromes and severe congenital anomalies)
- Having a medical-related technological dependence (for example, tracheostomy, gastrostomy, or positive pressure ventilation [not related to COVID 19])

Availability of Paxlovid in Rhode Island

Rhode Island will receive an initial two-week allotment of 180 courses of treatment sometime during the week of December 27, 2021, which will be available at nine local pharmacies geographically dispersed across the state. We will receive another 180 courses in two weeks; after that, the federal government will assess uptake and adjust allocations. The following pharmacies will have Paxlovid:

- Walgreens Pharmacy, 591 Metacom Ave., Bristol
- CVS Pharmacy, 309 Broad St., Central Falls
- CVS Pharmacy, 763 Tiogue Ave., Coventry
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 1583 Atwood Ave., Johnston
- CVS Pharmacy, 99 East Main Rd., Middletown
- CVS Pharmacy, 6495 Post Rd., North Kingstown
- Walgreens Pharmacy, 533 Elmwood Ave., Providence
- CVS Pharmacy, 150 Granite St., Westerly
- CVS Pharmacy, 1054 Cass Ave., Woonsocket