

Prescribing COVID-19 Therapeutics

There are three therapies available for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection at Island Health.

- Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) - an oral antiviral drug now available in British Columbia. Any physician/nurse practitioner is now authorized to prescribe this medication using a special prescription form. The drug will be dispensed from community pharmacies.
- Remdesivir OR Sotrovimab - intravenous therapies that can be administered at an Island Health infusion site. Remdesivir will now be replacing sotrovimab as the first line IV agent. Outpatient therapy requires referral to the [Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinic \(OCTC\)](#). Infusions may also be administered to patients in the emergency department or to those who are hospitalized with mild Covid-19. Inpatient use requires approval by an ID physician.

COVID-19 Treatment Process Summary:

1. Confirm patient is Covid positive (by either PCR or RAT) and within first five to seven days of illness. Must meet criteria for mild disease: i.e. must be symptomatic but not require oxygen support. If met, evaluate if patient is treatment eligible for [oral treatment or infusion](#).
2. Evaluate patient using [COVID-19 treatment criteria](#). Patient must be in one of the high risk groups at increased risk for progression to hospitalization to qualify for treatment.
3. If patient meets criteria for treatment, assess for appropriateness of oral therapy. Physician/nurse practitioner or pharmacist performs a medication history to assess for serious drug interactions.
4. If clinical case review and assistance is required, contact an [Island Health ID physician](#).
5. If pharmacist support or resources are needed, please use [appropriate online tool](#), or phone the Provincial pharmacist support line that is available for any clinician to contact: Mon-Fri 0830-1630; 1-866-604-5924.
6. If patient is a Paxlovid candidate, any physician/nurse practitioner can write the [prescription](#). Download the prescription, fill it out, and it can be given to patient/family member or faxed. The BC Pharmacy Association has a [locator](#) with pharmacies known to stock Paxlovid.
7. If the patient is not a candidate for Paxlovid but meets criteria for infusion therapy, refer them to the [OCTC clinic](#) for evaluation and potential treatment at an infusion clinic. A referring physician may phone the line and leave a message. OCTC: 250-737-2030 ext 44685.

Alternatively, patients can seek Paxlovid treatment directly by first visiting the [BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool website](#). If patients are unable to fill out the questionnaire online and need help to complete it over the phone, please call Service BC at 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319).

Please see the full guide developed by the B.C. COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee for more information: [Clinical Practice Guide for the Use of Therapeutics in Mild-Moderate COVID-19](#)

Other Supports for Physicians

Docs of BC Town Hall: Prescribing Therapies for Mild-Moderate COVID-19 [webinar](#) and [summary document](#)