

Iowa Department of Public Health  
COVID-19 Therapeutics - Guidance for Providers  
Anti-Viral Prioritization

Date: January 3, 2022

Purpose of this Guidance: In response to extremely limited allocations of COVID-19 anti-viral treatments to the state from the United States Government, the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) provides this guidance to assist providers in prioritizing patient populations for anti-viral treatment. This document is intended to serve as guidance as a supplement to, but not a replacement for, clinical judgment.

Products covered by this Guidance: The federal food and drug administration (FDA) has granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the following anti-viral products which are the subject of this guidance:

- Nirmatrelvir / ritonavir (Pfizer)
- Molnupiravir (Merck)

Entities covered by this Guidance: All Iowa licensed health care providers, hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, local boards of health, and public health agencies; and any person licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized or permitted by the laws of the state of Iowa or current Gubernatorial Proclamations of Disaster Emergency to prescribe, dispense or administer medications that are covered by this Guidance.

Prioritization of limited supplies: When supplies of COVID-19 anti-viral products do not meet clinical demand, IDPH recommends the following prioritization:

1. By vaccination status:
  - a. Unvaccinated individuals,
  - b. Incompletely vaccinated individuals, and
  - c. Vaccinated individuals who are not expected to mount an adequate immune response (e.g., individuals who are immunocompromised or on immunosuppressive medications or aged 65 or older); and
2. By presence of one or more of the following comorbidities:
  - a. Tier One:
    - i. Age  $\geq$  65
    - ii. BMI  $\geq$  30 (or  $\geq$  85th percentile for age/gender in pediatric patient)
    - iii. Immunocompromised state / HIV infection / Solid organ transplant / chemotherapy
    - iv. Chronic lung disease / smoker
  - b. Tier Two:
    - i. Pregnancy
    - ii. Diabetes

- iii. Cardiovascular disease / hypertension
- iv. Cancer (not currently undergoing treatment)
- v. Sickle cell disease
- vi. Chronic kidney disease
- vii. Neurodevelopmental disorders

Evaluation and redistribution: Entities covered by this Guidance which are allocated COVID-19 anti-virals are required to timely report administration of allocated products. Entities are strongly encouraged to redistribute underutilized anti-viral products in the manner directed by the Department in order to protect those at highest risk for hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Entities are strongly encouraged to provide this Guidance to appropriate personnel who may prescribe, dispense or administer COVID-19 anti-virals subject to this Guidance.