

COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for Older Adults in Nursing Homes



There is a treatment for COVID-19.

The treatment is monoclonal antibody therapy, or mAb. It's not a cure for COVID-19 but it may lessen your symptoms and help keep you out of the hospital.

If you or your older loved one in a nursing home test positive for COVID-19, talk to your healthcare provider about treatment right away.



What is COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment?

When you are sick, your body makes antibodies on its own to fight the illness. Monoclonal antibodies are made in a lab. They act like our own antibodies. They are the extra help your body needs to fight the COVID-19 virus.

In November 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for several monoclonal antibody therapies to treat eligible COVID-19 patients. Since then, this drug has helped thousands of Marylanders. The FDA allows EUA during a crisis, when clinical trials show great hope, and there is no other treatment.

Who can get monoclonal antibody treatment?

You may be eligible for treatment if you:

- Test COVID-19 positive
- Have mild to moderate symptoms that started in last 10 days
- Are at high risk

Talk to your nursing home health care team and give consent to treat. Timing is everything.

Treatment must start within 10 days of first having COVID-19 symptoms. Ask your nursing home if you can give consent today in case treatment is needed at any time. The nursing home must have consent to give this treatment.



What are mild to moderate symptoms?

Mild to moderate symptoms may be a fever, cough, sore throat, malaise or not feeling well, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste and smell, and mild shortness of breath.

If you are in the hospital sick with COVID-19, this treatment will not work for you.

Who is high risk?

Being high risk means that if you get COVID-19 you could get very sick, end up in the hospital, or even die. Right now, you can only get this treatment if you are at high risk. If you are not sure, ask your healthcare provider.

If you are 65 or older, you are high risk. You do not need to have any other medical conditions.

If you are 55 to 64 years old, you are high risk if you have one of these medical conditions:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other chronic respiratory disease

No matter how old you are, you are high risk if you have one of these medical conditions:

- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Body mass index over 35
- Immunosuppressive disease
- Currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment

Is COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment the same as the vaccine?

The treatment is not a vaccine. A vaccine tells your body how to fight if you get COVID-19. Monoclonal antibody treatment joins the fight when you have COVID-19. It helps block the virus from doing more harm.

What should I expect?

You will get the treatment by an IV. Treatment can take up to an hour. Medical staff will then watch over you for another hour. It is rare, but you could have an allergic reaction or other side effect.

How much will it cost?

Right now, there is no cost to you for the drug. There may be some cost for giving you the treatment. Your insurance may pay these fees.

