



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

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

### **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.

Since November 2020, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for several different mAb therapeutics 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?**

A person may be eligible for mAb treatment if

- They tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days and have mild-to-moderate symptoms, or
- Are high-risk (not expected to mount a full immune response) and were recently exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the past 96 hours.
- Also, unvaccinated or immunocompromised people who are in congregate care settings (like long-term care facilities or skilled nursing facilities) may be eligible for mAbs after exposure to COVID-19.

### **Timing is everything. Give consent.**

Treatment must start within 10 days of first having COVID-19 symptoms and a positive test, or within 4 days of a known or suspected exposure. 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 considered to be high risk. You do not need to have any other medical conditions.

<p>If you are 55 to 64 years old, you are high risk if you have one of these medical conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cardiovascular disease</li> <li>● Hypertension</li> <li>● Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other chronic respiratory disease</li> </ul>	<p>No matter how old you are, you are high risk if you have one of these medical conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Chronic kidney disease</li> <li>● Diabetes</li> <li>● Obesity</li> <li>● Immunosuppressive disease</li> <li>● Currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment</li> <li>● Other serious chronic conditions determined by your provider</li> </ul>
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**How do I get this therapy?**

The staff at the facility will be able to make the necessary arrangements for you to get this therapy with your consent if you are eligible. In most cases treatment is administered in the facility.

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

The treatment is not a vaccine and is not a substitute for vaccination. 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 may get the treatment by an IV or an injection under the skin (subcutaneous). IV Treatment can take up to an hour. In both cases 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.