

January 26, 2022

Dear Prescribers:

**The Ministry of Health wishes to advise Saskatchewan physicians and nurse practitioners that Paxlovid is available to eligible residents effective January 26, 2022.**

COVID-positive patients will follow a centralized process to determine eligibility to receive Paxlovid:

1. Patients who test positive for COVID-19 on a rapid-antigen test or PCR test will self-refer or be referred to HealthLine 811 to be assessed by a COVID-19 Assessment Center clinical team.
2. If a prescription for Paxlovid is clinically appropriate, COVID-19 Assessment Center prescribers will write and fax a Paxlovid prescription order set to a selected participating pharmacy.
3. The pharmacy and patient will make arrangements for contactless counselling and dispensing.
4. The COVID-19 Assessment Center will follow up with the patient to monitor treatment.

**Paxlovid cannot be prescribed or dispensed outside of the designated process at this time.  
A phased approach is required due to limited supply of Paxlovid.**

Treatment with Paxlovid is limited to patients who test positive for COVID-19 and are considered high risk for severe outcomes.

Paxlovid is only recommended for adults over 18 who:

- are symptomatic and within five days of developing symptoms;
- test positive (PCR or rapid test) for mild or moderate COVID-19;
- do not have any medical conditions that would make treatment inappropriate; and meet one of the following criteria:
  - are immunocompromised, regardless of vaccine status;
  - are 55 and older, and not fully vaccinated; or
  - have a medical condition that puts them at high risk, and are not fully vaccinated.

Further information is available at [www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-treatments](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-treatments).

It is anticipated that prescribing and dispensing will be expanded in future phases as supply allows.

Not all patients are candidates for Paxlovid:

- They may not meet the eligibility criteria for outpatient COVID-19 treatment at this time.
- Paxlovid is contraindicated in severe renal impairment and liver dysfunction, and interacts with many medications.

Outpatient IV monoclonal antibody treatment (sotrovimab) may be a better option for some patients. It is accessed by the same COVID-19 patient referral system through HealthLine 811.

**Please refer your patients to  
[www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-treatments](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-treatments) or HealthLine at 811 at this time.**

Further information will be provided as this process evolves. Thank you.

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