

Appendix 1 - Antivirals

Types of Prescribed COVID-19 Treatments Available

In Canada the main type of prescribed drug treatment for COVID-19 is an antiviral. Whether you receive this treatment depends on your risk factors and needs.

Antivirals

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Antivirals prescribed for COVID-19 can stop the virus from multiplying in your cells and overwhelming your body. They help your body fight off the infection, and help you get better faster.

The following are some approved antivirals prescribed for use in Canada:

- Paxlovid® (Ritonavir and Nirmatrelvir)

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Paxlovid[®] (Ritonavir and Nirmatrelvir)

Who is this medication for:

Adults (18 years of age or older), to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in people who:

- Have a positive test result for COVID-19.
- Have a high-risk of getting severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.
- **Paxlovid must be taken within 5 days of becoming sick to work.**

How is it administered:

Paxlovid contains two types of pills:

- Nirmatrelvir (pink tablet): 150 mg in each tablet
- Ritonavir (white tablet): 100 mg in each tablet

Common Potential Side Effects:

- Altered sense of taste
- Diarrhea
- Muscle pain
- Nausea, Vomiting
- Headache

PAXLOVID is not recommended in patients with severe kidney disease. Patients with moderate kidney disease should talk to their healthcare professional, as they will require a reduced dose.

**If you do not qualify for Paxlovid speak to your doctor or pharmacist about other options for you.