

# Paxlovid for people with kidney problems



Paxlovid is given to some people to help fight a COVID-19 virus infection. It may help you get better faster and stay out of hospital.

If you have kidney problems, your dose of Paxlovid may need to be reduced. If so, you need to take the medicine as described in this factsheet.

Paxlovid is made up of two antiviral medicines – nirmatrelvir (a pink tablet) and ritonavir (a white tablet). When taken together, they can reduce the amount of virus in your body. Paxlovid is only useful when given within 5 days of the start of your COVID-19 illness so your doctors will decide whether you need it or not.

## Take 2 tablets two times a day for 5 days as described below



### Every morning

Take 1 pink tablet **PLUS**  
1 white tablet

(these are in the yellow  
section of the foil)



### Every evening

Take 1 pink tablet **PLUS**  
1 white tablet

(these are in the blue  
section of the foil)

Complete the course of  
treatment, which is **5 days**.

You can take your tablets  
with or without food.




Do not stop taking Paxlovid  
without talking to your  
healthcare provider, even if  
you feel better.

## Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take

**There are other medicines that may not mix with Paxlovid and when taken together may cause serious side effects.**

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements (for example, St. John's Wort).
- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take Paxlovid with other medicines.

## If you have missed a dose

-  If you have missed a dose **within 8 hours** of the time it is usually taken, take it as soon as you remember.
-  If you miss a dose by **more than 8 hours**, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time.
-  Do not take extra doses of Paxlovid to make up for a forgotten dose.

 **Common, rare and serious side effects are listed on the next page**

## Are you pregnant or trying for a baby?



If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, do not take Paxlovid.

Ask your doctor for advice as Paxlovid is not recommended during pregnancy.

Women should avoid becoming pregnant (ie, use contraception or abstain from sexual activity) while taking Paxlovid and for 7 days after treatment ends.

### Contraception is very important

If you are taking birth control pills, extra care is needed as Paxlovid may affect how they work.

If you are engaging in sexual activity, you should use condoms as well as your usual contraception while taking Paxlovid and for 7 days after treatment ends.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

## Are you breastfeeding?

Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment and for 7 days after the last dose of Paxlovid.

Tell your healthcare provider you are breastfeeding BEFORE taking this medicine.

 For more information about Paxlovid, visit [hn.org.nz/paxlovid](https://hn.org.nz/paxlovid)

## All medicines have some side effects

Paxlovid can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

### Common side effects

These are usually mild and go away with time or when the medicine is stopped. Tell your doctor if these side effects cause you problems or don't go away:

- runny poo (diarrhoea)
- being sick (vomiting)
- changes to your sense of taste.

### Rare, serious side effects

Contact your healthcare team or **Healthline on 0800 611 116** immediately if you notice these side effects and tell them you are taking Paxlovid:

#### Signs of an allergic reaction such as:

- skin rash
- puffiness or swelling of the eyelids or around the eyes, face, lips or tongue
- chest tightness and trouble breathing.

#### Signs of liver problems such as:

- yellow eyes or skin
- pain or discomfort in the upper stomach area.