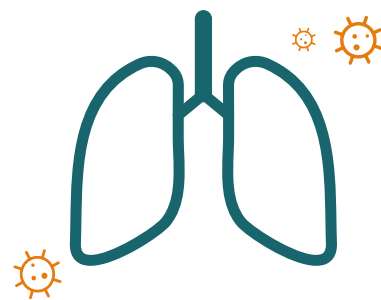


Antiviral medicines for COVID-19



COVID-19 antivirals are medicines used to treat COVID-19 infection. They may help you become less sick and stay out of hospital.

The main COVID-19 antiviral medicines available in New Zealand include:

- Paxlovid tablets (nirmatrelvir with ritonavir)
- Lageviro capsules (molnupiravir)

Antiviral medicines are free for eligible people. To be effective, they must be started within 5 days of your symptoms starting.



Antivirals are used to treat people at risk of getting very sick with COVID-19

You are eligible for antivirals if:

1. You test positive for COVID-19, or are a household contact of someone with COVID-19, and
2. You got sick within the last 5 days, and
3. You are in an eligible group. This includes people who:
 - are Māori or Pasifika and aged 50 years or older
 - are aged 65 years or older
 - are aged 50 years or older and have not had at least 2 COVID-19 vaccinations
 - have a severely weakened immune system
 - have Down syndrome
 - have sickle cell anaemia
 - have been admitted to hospital (ICU critical or high dependency) for COVID
 - have 3 or more high-risk medical conditions.

Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any long-term health conditions to find out if you are eligible.

How to get antiviral medicines

There are two ways to get antivirals.

1. Ask your doctor or nurse practitioner for a prescription.
2. Ask your pharmacist. Many pharmacies can give you antiviral medicines without a prescription, after a health check by phone.

→ Check [healthpoint.co.nz](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz) for the nearest pharmacy offering COVID-19 antiviral medicines.

Keep rapid antigen test (RAT) kits on hand

If you are at risk of getting very sick with COVID-19, make sure you have RAT kits at home, so you can test yourself as soon as you start to feel sick.



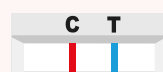
You should still stay up to date with your vaccinations — including boosters

Vaccination is the best way to prevent getting very sick from COVID-19. Antivirals do not replace the need to be vaccinated against COVID-19. It is recommended you wait 3 months after testing positive before getting any COVID-19 vaccination. Talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about the right timing for your vaccination.



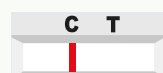
Note

If you have COVID-19, you must self-isolate. Your medicine can be collected by friends or whānau, or the pharmacy may be able to deliver the medicine, free of charge.



If you test positive

- And you think you may be eligible for an antiviral medicine, call your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- Check Healthpoint for the nearest pharmacy that offers COVID-19 antivirals or ask your local pharmacy to put you in touch with the nearest one. [healthpoint.co.nz](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz)



If you test negative

- And you think you may be eligible for an antiviral medicine, it is important to retest every day until you have been well for 24 hours.
- If you are getting worse, call your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice. You can also call Healthline on **0800 611 116**.



For more information about antiviral medicines, visit [hn.org.nz/covid-antivirals](https://www.hn.org.nz/covid-antivirals)