



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To:	Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From:	Gail Newel, MD, MPH, County Health Officer
Subject:	UPDATE on COVID-19 Outpatient Antiviral medications in Santa Cruz County
Date:	January 31, 2022

Situational Update:

There are a number of oral and injectable antiviral medications now available for COVID-19. Unfortunately, those effective against Omicron are in short supply and limited allocations have been distributed to Santa Cruz County via the [Federal and State allocation process](#).

Due to the extraordinary number of cases of COVID-19 we are currently experiencing, and the increasing strain on our health care system, it is critical that these limited supplies are allocated in a manner that provides your patients and the community with the greatest benefit. Generally, those patients most at risk of developing severe disease, hospitalization and death should be [prioritized](#) as suggested by National Institutes of Health.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Since the last advisory on January 14, 2022, supplies of some medications have improved, and we are now able to expand eligibility to more risk tiers (Table 1 below) as follows:

Prophylaxis

- Evusheld: moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions that may result in an inadequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination. Please note, the County is receiving increased quantity of Evusheld doses and clinicians are encouraged to consider including candidates who *moderately* immunocompromised in addition to those who are severely immunocompromised."

Treatment

- Paxlovid: Tiers 1 and 2
- Sotrovimab: Tiers 1, 2 and 3
- Remdesivir: Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4
- Molnupiravir: Tiers 1, 2, 3, 4

Full definitions of the tiers and a list of immunocompromising conditions can be found [here](#) and a side by side summary of current antiviral and prophylactic medications can be found [here](#).

Drs. John Kaufmann and Sunita Singh continue to be available to you for consultation. Call the Dominican operator at 831-462-7700. They can provide clinical advice as well as direct you to the most appropriate sources

based on logistical and supply limitations. Sotrovimab infusions and Evusheld injections are also available at Watsonville Community Hospital. Molnupiravir is available at select CVS pharmacies. **Please do not send patients to the emergency department for treatment or testing unless they need emergency care.**

Patient Prioritization Risk Groups

Tier	Characteristics
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunocompromised, not expected to mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccine or SARS-CoV-2 infection due to their underlying conditions, regardless of vaccine status; or • Unvaccinated individuals at the highest risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥75 years or anyone aged ≥65 years with additional risk factors).
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvaccinated individuals at risk of severe disease not included in Tier 1 (anyone aged ≥65 years or anyone aged <65 years with clinical risk factors)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinated individuals at high risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥75 years or anyone aged ≥65 years with clinical risk factors) <p>Note: Vaccinated individuals who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are likely at higher risk for severe disease; patients in this situation within this tier should be prioritized for treatment.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinated individuals at risk of severe disease (anyone aged ≥65 years or anyone aged <65 with clinical risk factors) <p>Note: Vaccinated individuals who have not received a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are likely at higher risk for severe disease; patients in this situation within this tier should be prioritized for treatment.</p>

<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov>

Table 1

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- CDC Webinar
 - https://www.emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2022/011222_slide.pdf
- Therapeutics overview
 - <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/therapeutics/Pages/Side-by-Side-Overview-of-mAbs-Treatment.aspx>
- EUA Documents:
 - <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization>
- Scientific Review Documents:
 - <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/coronavirus-covid-19-drugs/cder-scientific-review-documents-supporting-emergency-use-authorizations-drug-and-biological>



Public Health
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Santa Cruz County

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.