Dear Colleagues,

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends that all individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 be evaluated for treatment with oral antiviral medications when diagnosed within 5 days of their symptom onset. Please see the following updates to the MSDH recommendations:

UPDATES

• The COVID-19 oral antiviral agents Paxlovid (Pfizer) and molnupiravir (Merck) are currently available throughout Mississippi at Kroger, Wal-Mart and an increasing number of community pharmacies.  MSDH COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Locator Tool

• Current supply in retail pharmacies alleviates earlier need to restrict patient selection to only those within the highest tier risk groups; MSDH encourages use of Paxlovid or molnupiravir FULLY within their respective Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

• Use of the COVID-19 oral antiviral agents will improve patient symptoms, decrease transmission and reduce COVID-19 disease burden for Mississippians.
  o The FDA has issued an EUA for these products for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg for [Paxlovid] or those 18 years of age and older [molnupiravir] with positive results of direct severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) viral testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

• When writing a prescription for Paxlovid, the prescriber should include a statement of:
  o Completed review of potential drug/drug interactions;
  o Identification of renal dysfunction that necessitates dosage adjustment;
  o Date of patient symptom onset (must be started within 5 days of symptom onset)

• When writing a prescription for molnupiravir, the prescriber should include a statement of:
  o Completed assessment of pregnancy status and has counselled the patient;
  o Date of patient symptom onset (must be started within 5 days of symptom onset)
Molnupiravir and Paxlovid are oral antiviral medications authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the treatment of COVID-19. The antivirals are prescribed by authorized healthcare providers based on patient risk assessment. The United States Government has purchased these medications and allocates them on a weekly or biweekly basis to states and jurisdictions.

Fact sheets and educational video:

- [FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION FOR MOLNUPIRAVIR](fda.gov)
- [FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION FOR PAXLOVID](fda.gov)
- [COVID-19 Therapeutics Information for Healthcare Providers - YouTube](YouTube)

Upon dispensing, patients must be given a copy of the “Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents, and Caregivers” for the product they are receiving:

- [PAXLOVID FACT SHEET FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS](fda.gov)
- [MOLNUPIRAVIR FACT SHEET FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS](fda.gov)
Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20220218-00559-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00559
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.
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.
Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
Status (Type):
  Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
  Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
  Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
Message Type: Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:
- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:
- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).