



**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20220218-00559-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, PAs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Friday, February 18, 2022
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Therapeutics – UPDATES – Paxlovid and
molnupiravir available at Kroger, Wal-Mart, and other
community pharmacies

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.**
 - 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:
 - Completed review of potential drug/drug interactions;
 - Identification of renal dysfunction that necessitates dosage adjustment;
 - 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:
 - Completed assessment of pregnancy status and has counselled the patient;
 - 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](#)

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](#)
- [MOLNUPIRAVIR FACT SHEET FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS](#)



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-yyymmdd-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



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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)).