Dear Colleagues,

- Paxlovid, an oral antiviral medication, is the preferred option for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infection in individuals 12 and older at high risk of progression to severe disease from COVID-19 infection (see the Clinical Decision Aid at COVID-19 Therapeutics Decision Aid (hhs.gov)). Ample supply of Paxlovid is available, but this medication has been underutilized for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Bebtelovimab, a monoclonal antibody for the treatment of acute COVID-19 in the outpatient setting, is less effective and in extremely short supply and should be reserved for individuals with a contraindication to preferred therapies. Availability of bebtelovimab after the third week of August is uncertain.

Key Messages

- Paxlovid, an oral antiviral medication, is the preferred option for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infection in individuals 12 and older at high risk of progression to severe disease from COVID-19 infection (see the Clinical Decision Aid at COVID-19 Therapeutics Decision Aid (hhs.gov)). Ample supply of Paxlovid is available, but this medication has been underutilized for the treatment of COVID-19.
- Bebtelovimab, a monoclonal antibody for the treatment of acute COVID-19 in the outpatient setting, is less effective and in extremely short supply and should be reserved for individuals with a contraindication to preferred therapies. Availability of bebtelovimab after the third week of August is uncertain.
interact with Paxlovid can be temporarily discontinued during the five-day course of the antiviral medication. An example would be a patient with stable cardiovascular disease taking a statin.

- Paxlovid is contraindicated in those taking drugs that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance and for which elevated concentrations are associated with serious and/or life-threatening reactions:
  - Alpha1-adrenoreceptor antagonist: alfuzosin
  - Analgesics: pethidine, propoxyphene
  - Antianginal: ranolazine
  - Antiarrhythmic: amiodarone, dronedarone, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine
  - Anti-gout: colchicine
  - Antipsychotics: lurasidone, pimozide, clozapine
  - Benign prostatic hyperplasia agents: silodosin
  - Cardiovascular agents: eplerenone, ivabradine
  - Ergot derivatives: dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine
  - HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors: lovastatin, simvastatin
  - Immunosuppressants: voclosporin (Lupkynis™)
  - Microsomal triglyceride transfer protein inhibitor: lomitapide (Juxtapid®)
  - Migraine medications: eletriptan, ubrogepant (Ubrelvy®)
  - Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists: finerenone (Kerendia®)
  - Opioid antagonists: naloxegol (Movantik)
  - PDE5 inhibitor: sildenafil (Revatio®) when used for pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - Sedative/hypnotics: triazolam, oral midazolam
  - Serotonin receptor 1A agonist/serotonin receptor 2A antagonist: flibanserin (Addyi®)
  - Vasopressin receptor antagonists: tolvaptan (Jynarque®)

- Paxlovid is also contraindicated in those taking drugs that are potent CYP3A inducers where significantly reduced nirmatrelvir or ritonavir plasma concentrations may be associated with the potential for loss of virologic response and possible resistance.
  - Anticancer drugs: apalutamide (Erleada®)
  - Anticonvulsant: carbamazepine, primidone, phenytoin
  - Cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator potentiators: lumacaftor/ivacaftor (Orkambi®)
  - Herbal Products: St. John’s Wort (Hypericum perforatum)

For detailed information regarding all drug-drug interactions with Paxlovid, please refer to “Table 1: Established and Other Potentially Significant Drug Interactions” in Section 7 of the Paxlovid Fact Sheet.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
**Alerting Message Specification Settings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Originating Agency</td>
<td>Mississippi State Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alerting Program</td>
<td>MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Status (Type)</td>
<td>Actual ()</td>
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<td>Alert</td>
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<td>Reference</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensitive</td>
<td>Not Sensitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Message Expiration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urgency</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delivery Time</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**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-yyymmmm-dd-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)).