

## COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Medication Program for Long Term Care and Congregate Care Facilities in Pennsylvania

### Frequently Asked Questions for Healthcare Providers

#### **Q. Who is eligible to receive Paxlovid or molnupiravir?**

A. Currently Paxlovid and molnupiravir are authorized for use in individuals that test positive for COVID-19 and at high-risk for severe disease progression. Both of these medications should be started as soon as possible following a confirmatory test for COVID-19 (optimally within 5 days of symptom onset). To understand specific patient eligibility criteria and medical contraindications, please refer to fact sheets for healthcare providers:

- Paxlovid Fact Sheet For Healthcare Providers [\[LINK\]](#)
- Molnupiravir Fact Sheet For Healthcare Providers [\[LINK\]](#)

#### **Q. Why did the state create a strategic reserve for Long Term Care and Congregate Care Facilities?**

A. The Commonwealth is receiving limited quantities of these Oral Antivirals. In order to ensure that all Long Term Care and Congregate Care facilities have equal and rapid access to these products (regardless of the pharmacy or medical provider they work with), the state strategic reserve allows requesting through [this online form](#) and, in most cases, same-day or next-day delivery to any site within the Commonwealth.

#### **Q. Who is allowed to prescribe Paxlovid and molnupiravir?**

A. Paxlovid and molnupiravir may only be prescribed by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that are licensed or authorized under state law to prescribe drugs in the therapeutic class to which they belong.

#### **Q. Who is allowed to order Oral Antivirals from the state's strategic reserve?**

A. Oral Antivirals for Long Term Care and Congregate Care sites can be ordered either by the facility directly, or by a pharmacy that has a relationship with the facility. If the facility orders the product, they may request that the product be shipped directly to their facility, or to a partner pharmacy. Having the product shipped to or requested by a pharmacy may assist facilities in tracking medication dispensed to residents.

#### **Q. May a provider outside of our facility write a prescription for an individual patient, such as a physician from LTC RISE?**

A. No. Under the Emergency Use Authorization, a prescription may be written by any physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant that is licensed or authorized under state law to prescribe drugs in this therapeutic class. **However**, the LTC RISE programs are not permitted to provide direct patient care; conducting the necessary evaluation of patients and writing prescriptions for patients would constitute direct patient care. Also, due to the required patient background assessments and reporting for these products, a qualified prescriber within your facility is likely best suited to write the prescription.

#### **Q. Are there reporting requirements for health care facilities and providers as part of the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for each product?**

A. Yes. As part of the EUA, FDA requires health care providers who prescribe Paxlovid or molnupiravir (or a designee) to report all medication errors and serious adverse events

considered to be potentially related to Paxlovid and molnupiravir through FDA's MedWatch Adverse Event Reporting program. Providers can complete and submit the report online [[LINK](#)], or download and complete the form (submitted via fax at 1-800-FDA-0178). This requirement is outlined in the product fact sheets for Health Care Providers. FDA MedWatch forms should also be provided to Pfizer (for Paxlovid) or Merck (for molnupiravir).

**Q. May pharmacies or LTCFs request product to hold in reserve for potential future outbreaks?**

A. No. The Commonwealth is only releasing product for active cases due to limited supply of products. To enable efficient distribution of product, the Department has developed the capability to ship product same or next day to facilities across the Commonwealth. When requesting a product amount through the request form, you are attesting that you will dispense product to active cases of residents in your facility.

**Q. Can this product be requested for our facility's staff?**

A. No. The product in the state's strategic reserve is only intended for facility residents. Staff should consult with their own physician or medical provider if they are COVID positive to discuss treatment options. If appropriate, a prescription will be written, and can be filled at any number of retail pharmacies that have these products on hand (please refer to the [Prevention & Treatment section of the DOH website](#) for the list of pharmacies).

**Q. Does our facility get to pick which product is provided to our facility/patients?**

A. Yes. The request form allows your facility to indicate which product should be provided, and in what quantities. However, the current supply of molnupiravir in Pennsylvania is much more robust than the supply of Paxlovid at this time. The Department would contact your facility if a product requested is not currently in stock. Please remember that your facility/provider is charged with ensuring that the product is clinically appropriate for each individual patient.

**Q. I have requested supply of Paxlovid. What do I do if the Department of Health states that only molnupiravir is available at this time?**

A. We apologize that we are unable to meet demand for certain treatments. The Department will contact your facility if a product is not currently in stock; in these cases, please consider the following options: (i) check for availability of supply at a nearby pharmacy (please refer to the [Prevention & Treatment section of the DOH website](#)) or (ii) ask the prescriber to write a prescription for another treatment option.

**Q. Will this process change again? If so, when?**

A. As access to oral antivirals increases, the Department will continue to expand the network of locations that can dispense these products. Over the coming weeks and months, this will include pharmacies that can service Long Term Care and Congregate Care facilities. This may be a rolling deployment, so the Department will continue to maintain the state strategic reserve until we are assured that all facilities have access through the normal pharmaceutical distribution pathways.

For further questions, please contact DOH at [covidtherapeutics@pa.gov](mailto:covidtherapeutics@pa.gov).