

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## Paxlovid news, updates

Physicians and clinic staff who need to find out which pharmacies are dispensing Paxlovid can now search via an [online map](#).

Although all pharmacies can choose to dispense the oral antiviral, not all have opted to do so. Only a small number of physicians in Alberta have started prescribing Paxlovid, but prescribers are responsible for confirming that the pharmacy they are using is on the list of dispensing pharmacies.

Pharmacies listed online as dispensing are required to have at least one course of treatment on hand. It is recommended that physicians call in advance to confirm supply. Pharmacies that receive a prescription they are unable to fill are responsible for identifying another pharmacy that can fill it.

As plans for a wider roll out of Paxlovid prescribing in primary care continue to be developed, the following tools and resources are also available:

- **Patient access:** While plans to transition prescribing to primary care are developed, patient access to Paxlovid is via the dedicated Health Link line at 1-844-343-0971. Do not call 811. A [patient FAQ](#) and outpatient treatment [information page](#) are helpful resources that can be shared with patients.
- **Webinar:** On Wednesday, April 27, from noon to 1 p.m., a webinar titled *What you need to know about Paxlovid* will be hosted by the Alberta Medical Association as part of its COVID Talks for Docs series. It aims to address questions from primary care providers related to managing patients and developing clinic processes and supports. Clinic staff are welcome to attend. [Register here](#).
- **Provider FAQ:** Download the Paxlovid provider FAQ [here](#).
- **Clinical resource guide:** A prescribing resource guide that lists patient criteria and access or availability for Paxlovid and Remdesivir is [available online](#).
- **Long-Term Care, Designated Supportive Living:** Information about Paxlovid for those sites can be [found here](#).
- **Interaction checker:** You may find this U.K.-based resource helpful: [Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions](#)

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## Novavax, vaccine availability

The protein-based Novavax COVID-19 vaccine that has been available in Alberta since early April for those aged 18 and older is being administered at selected AHS clinics. If your patients are interested in pursuing this vaccine option, appointments can be requested by calling [Health Link](#) at 811.

Availability of the Moderna vaccine for children aged six to 11 who are starting or completing a vaccine series is also via Health Link, or by contacting a [participating pharmacy](#).

Patients who are now [eligible for fourth doses](#), which includes travellers, can book their appointment [online](#) or via 811, five months after their third dose.

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## Remdesivir rolled out, Sotrovimab use suspended

Remdesivir has been added as a treatment option for eligible COVID-19 patients, while use of Sotrovimab has been suspended due to uncertainty about its efficacy in treating the BA.2 variant.

Alberta Health Services made the decision to withdraw Sotrovimab last week. Remdesivir can be offered to patients with a contraindication to Paxlovid. Access and eligibility details can be [found here](#).

[Sotrovimab memo](#).

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## Quick links

### Paxlovid webinar

As mentioned above, on Wednesday, April 27, from noon to 1 p.m., the latest COVID Talks for Docs webinar will address *What you need to know about Paxlovid*. [More details](#).

### Health Summit Series webinar

On Wednesday, May 11, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, the second session of the Canadian Medical Association's Health Summit Series will take place. The latest installment of the Doing Health Differently: During COVID and Beyond series is titled, *Health care in Canada: How Might it Drive Economic Growth?* [Register](#).