



CDPH Health Advisory

Lower Barriers to Prescribing COVID-19 Therapeutics to Mitigate Impact of COVID-19

and

CDC Health Update

Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention

December 21, 2022

On December 2, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a [health advisory on lowering barriers to early treatment](#) to prevent COVID-19 hospitalizations. On December 20, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a [health update on COVID-19 therapeutics](#).

In particular, clinicians are urged to prescribe Paxlovid, which is not in short supply and is widely available, to all COVID-19 patients who may meet criteria, which includes any adult at least 50 years of age and patients with a broad range of [underlying conditions](#) that include common conditions such as diabetes, being overweight, lung or heart disease, physical inactivity, pregnancy, substance use, former and current smoking, and mental health conditions including depression. Members of racial and ethnic minority groups may also be at higher risk for severe COVID-19 and should be considered for treatment. Eligible patients, even if only mildly symptomatic, should begin Paxlovid within 5 days (ideally sooner) of symptom onset.

See more information on [COVID-19 therapeutics from SFDPH](#). CDPH also offers free [telehealth](#) (or call 833-686-5051) for uninsured patients and patients unable to be seen within 24 hours.