



## Important Possible Side Effects of Paxlovid

- **Allergic reactions.** Severe allergic reactions (known as anaphylaxis) can happen, even after only one dose. Stop taking Paxlovid and call your health care provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: trouble swallowing or breathing; swelling of the mouth, lips, or face; throat tightness; hoarseness; sudden skin rash or hives.
- **Liver Problems.** Tell your health care provider right away if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems: loss of appetite, yellowing of skin and whites of the eyes (jaundice), dark-colored urine, pale-colored stools and itchy skin, stomach/abdominal pain.
- **Other possible and more common side effects** include altered sense of taste, diarrhea/nausea, high blood pressure, muscle aches, abdominal pain, or feeling generally unwell. These can be normal and not necessarily a reason to stop taking Paxlovid. Contact your healthcare provider if you are experiencing any symptoms you are concerned about.

## Taking care of yourself or your family member with COVID-19

- Supportive care includes rest, hydration, and nutrition. Talk to your doctor about other treatments that can relieve your symptoms (i.e., headaches, muscle aches, fever, and cough) while you recover from COVID-19.
- You are still contagious; remain isolated per your local guidelines, wear a mask if you must be around others, and wash your hands frequently to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk of infection and progression to severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Get vaccinated and/or boosted if you are not already.

**RED FLAGS:** Even if you are taking PAXLOVID, seek immediate medical attention if you develop any of the following emergency signs or symptoms: worsening breathing or shortness of breath; severe, unrelenting chest pain; severe weakness; confusion or lethargy.

## Contact Information:

My health care team: \_\_\_\_\_

My nearest emergency care: \_\_\_\_\_

## Test to Treat: Getting Started with Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets)

Test to Treat is a strategy that links symptomatic patients with testing, diagnosis and evidence-based care for COVID-19, including the use of oral antivirals for eligible patients.

You have been given this fact sheet because your health care provider believes it is beneficial to provide you with the oral antiviral medication called Paxlovid for the treatment of mild to moderate coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This fact sheet contains information to help you understand the risks and benefits of taking Paxlovid, which you have or may receive. It explains how to take Paxlovid and how to report side effects or problems with the appearance or packaging. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions.

Paxlovid is manufactured by Pfizer and has been granted Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA in the United States. Paxlovid is investigational because it is still being studied. There is limited information about the safety and effectiveness of using Paxlovid to treat people with mild to moderate COVID-19, but the available data support it as a recommended treatment.

### It is your choice whether to take Paxlovid or not.

**What is Paxlovid?** Paxlovid is a new oral antiviral medicine used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19. It is manufactured by Pfizer and has been granted emergency use authorization as a treatment for mild and moderate COVID-19.

**Who can take Paxlovid?** Adults and children [12 years of age and older weighing at least 88 pounds (40 kg)] with a positive SARS CoV-2 test result, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

### Things to tell your health care provider before starting Paxlovid

- All medications, supplements, herbal medicines, or vitamins you are currently taking or should be taking
- Any serious illnesses or chronic diseases
- Specifically, tell your health care provider if you have HIV, and if so, what medications you are taking
- Any allergies
- Liver or kidney disease
- Possibly pregnant or may become pregnant
- Breastfeeding a child

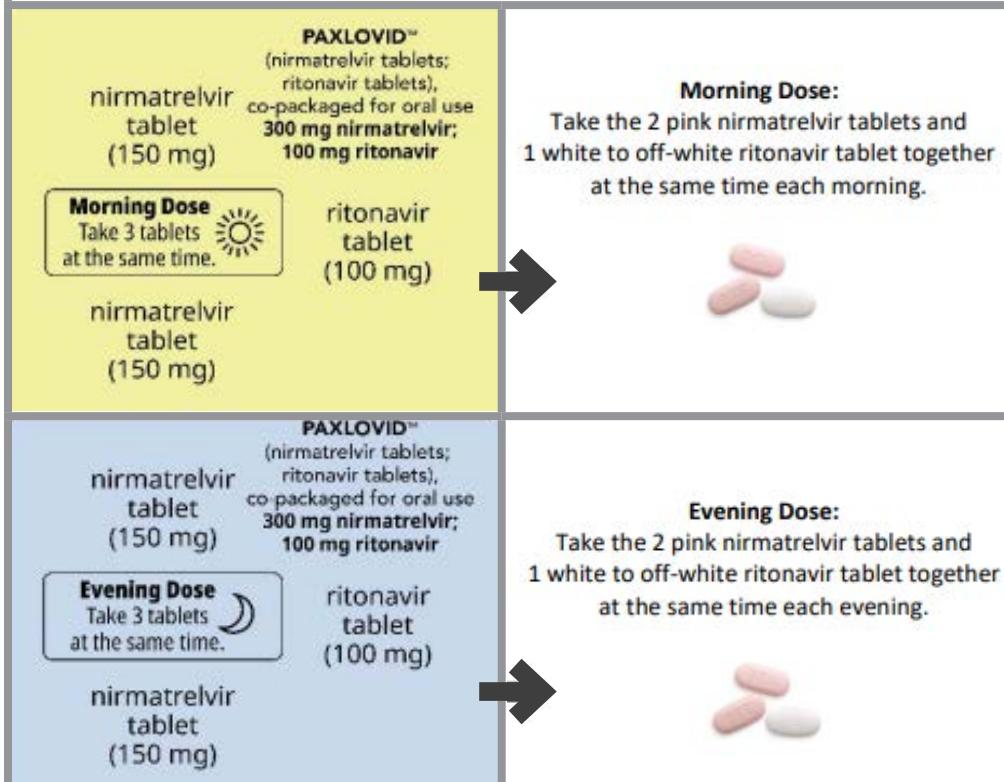
*If you answered "yes" to any of these conditions, tell your health care provider. You can still be treated for COVID-19. See inside for more information.*

Recommendations based on [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents, and Caregivers](#); Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) of PAXLOVID for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); Pfizer, Inc.; Revised: 26 September 2022.

## How do I take Paxlovid?

- Nirmatrelvir** is an oval, pink tablet. Most people take two tablets (150 mg each; 300 mg when taken together). People with kidney problems take only one tablet (150 mg) per dose. Talk to your health care provider if you have any serious medical conditions to make sure you are taking the correct dose.
- Ritonavir** is an oval, white or off-white tablet. People take one Ritonavir tablet (100 mg) per dose.

### How to take PAXLOVID 300 mg; 100 mg Dose Pack



If you have advanced kidney disease or if your health care provider decides you should have a lower dose, you may only take one nirmatrelvir tablet (150 mg) and one ritonavir tablet (100 mg) per dose.

## How should I store Paxlovid?

Store Paxlovid tablets at room temperature, between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

If you have concerns about the appearance of the packaging or tablets, or if you have concerns about possible side effects or medication interactions, contact the health care provider or facility where you were prescribed Paxlovid.

## Tips for Taking Paxlovid

Do not remove the Paxlovid tablets from the blister card before you are ready to take your dose. Take the first dose in the morning or evening, depending on when you pick up your prescription, or as recommended by your healthcare provider.

- Swallow the tablets whole. Do not chew, break, or crush the tablets.
- Take with or without food.
- Do not stop taking Paxlovid without talking to your health care provider, even if you feel better.

If you miss a dose of Paxlovid within eight hours of the time it is usually taken, take it as soon as you remember. If you miss a dose by more than eight hours, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take two doses of Paxlovid at the same time. If you take too much Paxlovid, call your health care provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

***Talk to your health care provider if you start to feel worse or if you do not feel better after five days. If you feel better but then start to feel worse again at any point after you complete your course of Paxlovid, talk to your health care provider and repeat COVID-19 testing.***

If you take certain medications, your health care provider may recommend holding or adjusting the dose for a short period of time. Patients taking combined hormonal contraceptives (birth control pills) should plan to use a back-up method. Talk with your health care provider about alternative methods of pregnancy prevention and instructions for use when taking Paxlovid.

## Who generally should not take Paxlovid? Do not take Paxlovid if:

- You are allergic to nirmatrelvir, ritonavir, or any of the ingredients in Paxlovid.
- You are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.\*
- You have advanced (severe) kidney or liver disease.
- You are not at risk for severe illness, hospitalization, or death related to COVID-19.
- You are taking certain medications.

*Tell your health care provider about all the medicines you are taking because additional laboratory tests or changes in the dose of your other medicines may be necessary while taking Paxlovid. Your health care provider may also tell you about specific symptoms to watch for that may indicate you need to stop or decrease the dose of some of your other medicines.*

\* Pregnancy is a risk factor for developing severe or critical COVID-19, and pregnant patients should discuss the overall risks and benefits with their health care provider before taking Paxlovid. Consensus does not currently exist on the recommendation of Paxlovid for pregnant patients. The FDA states that for a mother and unborn baby, the benefit of taking Paxlovid may be greater than the risk from the treatment, given existing animal studies and the extensive use of ritonavir in pregnant women with HIV. By contrast, WHO states that their strong recommendation for its use does not apply to pregnant patients.