

COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Commercialization and Access

Lagevrio and Paxlovid Ordering: HHS-distributed Lagevrio orders closed on November 10, 2023, except for certain federal entities. Orders through commercial channels opened on November 1, with expectations of commercial orders being fulfilled within 1-2 weeks.

Free U.S. Government supply of therapeutics in Illinois can be found [here](#). As of December 11th, there were about 65,000 courses of Lagevrio and about 21,000 courses of Paxlovid across 1,200 locations (90% of which are retail pharmacies) across Illinois.

- For Lagevrio: The [Merck Patient Assistance Program](#) will provide Lagevrio free of charge for a full year to eligible patients who, without assistance, could not otherwise afford it. The free Lagevrio supply should continue to be used for all eligible patients, including Medicare, Medicaid, uninsured and underinsured patients, until HHS-distributed supply is depleted or reaches expiration. There do not appear to be co-pay limits or income verification and patients need to be 18 years or older. However, prescribers would need to directly initiate the patient assistance program at 800-727-5400, and a program representative will assist with an urgent need request.
- Some prescription discount sites are also offering coupons that could bring co-pays down to less than three dollars for a course of treatment.
- For Paxlovid: The [Paxcess program](#) will provide free US Govt supply to those who have Medicaid/Medicare or are uninsured through a voucher system (a few minutes sign-up process). For those with commercial insurance, they will provide a \$1,500 co-pay assistance card for those who self-attest they do not have full medication coverage. This should cover the current cost of a full course of Paxlovid, no limits on the number of times the prescription could be filled in a year, but no sooner than 90 days from the last fill, given low risk of reinfection within 90 days.

Transition of Paxlovid Orders: Paxlovid orders transitioned from thresholds to an out-of-cycle request process on November 27, with HHS-procured Paxlovid orders closing on December 15, 2023, for most entities. Returns of Paxlovid with specific expiration dates will be accepted until

December 31, with Pfizer providing NDA-labeled credit for each returned EUA-labeled Paxlovid.

Sunsetting of U.S. Government COVID-19 Therapeutics Distribution Program: Detailed information about the transition to traditional commercial distribution is [available](#).

Stakeholder Update Call: There will be a stakeholder update call on December 13th. If unregistered, you can request an invitation [online](#). The email for any inquiries is COVID19.therapeutics@hhs.gov.

HPOP Volunteer Reporting

Starting in mid-December, sites can voluntarily report the availability of commercial COVID-19 therapeutics such as Paxlovid, Lagevrio, and outpatient Veklury. Sites have the option to choose whether to appear on the ASPR treatments locator. Non-HPOP users can report through the [HPOP Volunteer Reporting website](#), with instructions provided in an attached quick reference guide. HPOP users can use their existing accounts to report the commercial supply they have on hand. The HPOP team will be available during office hours to address any questions related to HPOP, and the Tiberius team will also be present to provide updates and announcements.

HPOP stakeholders who have not previously attended an HPOP Office Hours session must [register](#) in advance for the office hours series.

Access to Treatment Services

Several Illinoisans may not have easy or quick access to a medical provider who could evaluate them for treatment. Below are treatment services that patients could access at no cost-sharing.

A. SIU Telemedicine COVID-19 Test to Treat program:

- The program aims to offer quicker access to lifesaving COVID-19 treatments for those who test positive for Covid-19.
- If at high risk of severe illness, an oral treatment may be prescribed to aid recovery. The treatment is provided at no cost to the patient, with potential billing to insurance.

To Schedule a telehealth appointment:

Call 217 – 545 – 5100

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm

Saturday and Sunday 10am – 5pm

Visit <https://www.siumed.org/treatment/covid-19-test-treat-clinic>

B. Home Test-to-Treat program:

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) have partnered with a telehealth provider, eMed, to initiate a Home Test-to-Treat program aiming to provide access to COVID-19 or Flu testing, consultation, and treatment within a home setting at no cost to eligible participants (i.e. those who are uninsured, underinsured, have Medicaid/Medicare, participate in the VA health system or IHS).
- Illinoisans may access the Home Test-to-Treat program through <https://test2treat.org> or call 1-800-682-2829 for assistance.

Public Experience Survey

If you tested positive for COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Public Health would like to know about your experience in getting treatment for the disease. Please fill out this quick survey and let us know about your experience:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/b5148b3c42604383a4084aad58389701>.

Questions? Please contact the IDPH COVID – 19 Therapeutics Program at dph.MABTherapy@illinois.gov.