

**To: Long-Term Care Homes and Retirement Homes**  
**Subject: COVID-19 Antiviral Medication: Paxlovid**  
**Date: April 27, 2022**

Paxlovid is an antiviral medication that can be considered for [eligible individuals](#) with mild COVID-19 who are considered to be at higher risk of developing severe symptoms. If given within 5 days of symptom onset, it can [reduce an individual's risk of hospitalization or death](#).

Anyone with a prescription for Paxlovid can now access it for free in community pharmacies across Wellington County, Dufferin County, and the City of Guelph. To be considered for treatment, the individual should be at higher risk of severe illness, must have tested positive for COVID-19, and the medication must be given within 5 days of symptom onset. For more information, please visit the Provincial webpage on COVID-19 [antiviral treatment](#).

Additional resources to support the use of Paxlovid are available from the [Ontario Science Advisory Table](#), [Ontario Health](#), the [Centre for Effective Practice](#), and other organizations.

**Residents in your Home may be candidates for Paxlovid based on current recommendations.** Paxlovid interacts with other medications and may not be appropriate for every resident; a clinical lens needs to be applied by the resident's MRP. To determine if a resident is eligible for treatment, please use the following screening tool: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener/>

Planning ahead can help reduce barriers to receiving this medication. WDG Public Health is recommending the following steps be taken, to ensure that resident's who may benefit from this treatment receive it in a timely manner:

- You have your Home's medical director (or the MRPs of your residents) assess which residents may be good candidates for Paxlovid, based on the available guidance, should they develop COVID-19.
- For those residents who may be candidates for Paxlovid, you maintain an up to date eGFR on file.
- You work with your Home's medical director/MRPs and community pharmacists to develop processes that ensure timely access to Paxlovid for residents who develop COVID-19 and who are candidates for treatment.
- You document these processes in your Home's Outbreak Preparedness Plan.

Additionally, WDG Public Health strongly recommends that you ensure all residents are up to date with all recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccines, including second boosters (fourth doses) where appropriate. Vaccines remain our most important tool to reduce the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.

On April 22, 2022, the Science Advisory Table published a new Science Brief on therapeutic management for residents of long-term care homes who develop COVID-19. For more information, please see the following [link](#). The PDF version is also attached to the corresponding email.