



## **COVID-19 Rebound After Paxlovid Treatment**

### **Summary**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently shared information in response to reports of the apparent recurrence of COVID-19 symptoms or [“COVID-19 rebound.”](#) After taking Paxlovid. **Paxlovid continues to be recommended for early-stage treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 illness among those at high risk for progression to severe disease.**

Paxlovid treatment helps prevent hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. COVID-19 rebound has been reported to occur between 2 and 8 days after initial recovery and is characterized by a recurrence of COVID-19 symptoms or a new positive viral test after having tested negative.

**A brief return of symptoms may be part of the natural history of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) infection in some people, independent of treatment with Paxlovid and regardless of vaccination status.** Limited information currently available from case reports suggests that persons treated with Paxlovid who experience COVID-19 rebound have had mild illness; there are no reports of severe disease.

There is currently no evidence that additional treatment is needed with Paxlovid or other anti-SARS-CoV-2 therapies in cases where COVID-19 rebound is suspected.

### **Recommendations for Healthcare Providers**

For patients with COVID-19 rebound

- There is currently no evidence that additional treatment for COVID-19 is needed for COVID-19 rebound. Based on data available at this time, patient monitoring continues to be the most appropriate management for patients with recurrence of symptoms after completion of a treatment course of Paxlovid.
- Advise people with COVID-19 rebound to follow [CDC’s guidance on isolation](#) and take precautions to prevent further transmission. Patients should re-isolate for at least 5 days. Per CDC guidance, they can end their re-isolation period after 5 full days if fever has resolved for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms are improving. The patient should wear a mask for a total of 10 days after rebound symptoms started.
- Consider clinical evaluation of patients who have COVID-19 rebound and symptoms that persist or worsen.



- Healthcare providers are encouraged to report cases of COVID-19 rebound after Paxlovid treatment to Pfizer using the following online tool: [Pfizer Safety Reporting](#) and to FDA [MedWatch](#). Complete and submit a MedWatch form, or complete and submit FDA Form 3500 (health professional) by fax (1-800-FDA-0178). Call **1-800-FDA-1088** for questions.

### **For patients just diagnosed with COVID-19**

- Healthcare providers should counsel patients on available COVID-19 treatment options, particularly for those patients at [increased risk of developing severe COVID-19](#).
- Paxlovid should be considered for any patient who meets the eligibility criteria. For information on Paxlovid eligibility, refer to [FDA's Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#).
- Due to the potential for severe drug-drug interactions with the ritonavir component of Paxlovid, it is strongly suggested that healthcare providers not experienced in prescribing this drug refer to the [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#), the [Paxlovid Patient Eligibility Screening Checklist Tool for Prescribers](#), and [the NIH Statement on Paxlovid Drug-Drug Interactions | COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#). Healthcare providers can also contact a local clinical pharmacist or infectious disease specialist for advice.
- For further information on the use of Paxlovid, CDC recommends healthcare providers continue to closely follow [NIH's COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#), [the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Public Health Emergency COVID-19 Therapeutics site](#), and [IDSA's Guidelines on the Management of Patients with COVID-19](#).

Regardless of whether the patient has been treated with an antiviral agent, risk of transmission during COVID-19 rebound can be managed by following [CDC's guidance on isolation](#), including taking other precautions such as masking.

Staying [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination lowers the risk of getting COVID-19 and helps prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19, such as severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

### **Recommendations for Public Health Departments and Public Health Jurisdictions**

- State and local health departments should be aware of COVID-19 rebound and disseminate the recommendations for healthcare providers and the public.
- Health departments should share information about measures to prevent further transmission. The possibility of COVID-19 rebound makes it all the more important to follow [CDC's isolation guidance](#). Isolation should be restarted after the onset of rebound symptoms or



a positive test result. Per CDC guidance, people can end re-isolation after 5 full days with resolution of their fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and if their symptoms are improving. The individual should wear a mask for a total of 10 days after rebound symptoms started.

- Health departments should periodically share up-to-date information on therapeutics for COVID-19 and their availability to healthcare providers within their jurisdiction.

### **Recommendations for the Public**

- You may be experiencing COVID-19 rebound if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 illness, your symptoms resolve, and you then experience return of COVID-19 symptoms or develop newly positive test results after recovery.
- If you experience COVID-19 rebound, you should follow [CDC's isolation guidance](#). Isolate again and restart the recommended 5-day isolation period at the time of recurrence of symptoms or a new positive COVID-19 test result. You can end re-isolation after 5 days if you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and your symptoms are improving. You should also wear a mask for 10 days after rebound.
- Contact a healthcare provider if your COVID-19 rebound symptoms persist or worsen.
- Consult with your healthcare provider if you have additional questions about your treatment.
- You are encouraged to report a possible case of COVID-19 rebound after Paxlovid treatment to Pfizer using the following online tool: [Pfizer Safety Reporting](#).

Thank you for your partnership.

OHA Therapeutics Team