

COVID-19 medicine eligibility and pathway



This fact sheet provides information for people with disability and their supports about the eligibility and pathway for accessing COVID-19 medicines.

COVID-19 medicines – who is eligible?

These people are eligible to take COVID-19 medicines if they test positive for COVID-19:

- 70 years or older
- Between 50 and 69 years old, and have 2 risk factors
- 30 years and older, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, and have 2 risk factors
- Between 18 and 49 years old and immunocompromised.



Immunocompromised conditions include:



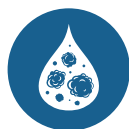
common autoimmune diseases such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes, HIV and AIDS



organ transplant, including bone marrow transplant



medical treatments such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy



blood cancer.



having immune suppressive therapy

Risk factors include:



living in residential aged care



chronic respiratory disease including moderate or severe asthma



living with disability with multiple conditions (but not limited to living in supported accommodation)



diabetes



living remotely with reduced access to higher level healthcare



being overweight



neurological conditions



serious heart disease



chronic kidney failure disease.

These are the steps you need to do if you test positive for COVID-19:



1. **Isolate right away.**



2. Tell your support person or family that you tested positive for COVID-19.



3. Call your GP and **get an appointment right away.**

COVID-19 medicines will only work if you start to take them in the 5 days after you get your symptoms.

If you cannot get an appointment with your GP, you may do any of the following:

1. **Call** the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080 (press 5)**.
You can ask them to help you speak to your GP. **Make sure you have your GPs name and phone number with you.**
2. **Call** Health Direct on **1800 022 222**.
They will help find a GP to see you.
3. **Use** the Service Finder on the [Health Direct](#) website to find a GP near you.



What happens when you get an appointment with your GP?



1. You can talk to the GP on the phone or via telehealth. You can have a longer telehealth appointment because you have COVID-19 and the GP needs to examine you very well.



2. The GP will check if the COVID-19 medicines are the right treatment for you and what type of medicine you can have. **You have to let the GP know if you have a hard time swallowing.** Some COVID-19 medicines must be swallowed whole.

The GP will ask you about the following:



your medical condition



if you are breastfeeding



what sicknesses you have had in the past



what vaccinations you have had, when you had them and if you have plans to get a COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots. **You may not need COVID-19 medicines if you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19.** This means that you have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



medicines and vitamins and you are taking



if you are pregnant



What happens if the COVID-19 medicine is right for you?



1. If the COVID-19 medicine is safe and the right treatment for you, you (or your guardian) must sign a consent form before the GP gives you the script.



2. The GP may prescribe an alternative COVID-19 medicine if the oral medicines are not right for you.



3. The GP can send an electronic prescription to a smart phone or to an email address, so that you, your family, a friend or support person can get the medicines from the chemist.

TIPS

- Visit the [Pharmacy Guild Australia's website](#) to find out which pharmacies stock up on COVID-19 medicines.
- Call the chemist ahead of time to check if they have the medicines. COVID-19 medicines are expensive so not many chemists have them.

