



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX  
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON  
Lieutenant Governor

Utah Department of Health  
Executive Director's Office

Nate Checketts, M.P.A.  
*Executive Director*

Heather R. Borski, M.P.H., M.C.H.E.S.  
*Deputy Director*

Michelle G. Hofmann M.D., M.P.H., M.H.C.D.S., F.A.A.P.  
*Deputy Director*

February 10, 2022

Dear Provider,

Last week, PAXLOVID was made available in select retail pharmacies, marking the beginning of a long-awaited transition where Utah's healthcare providers can directly connect their patients to effective COVID-19 treatments. The landscape for COVID-19 therapeutics continues to evolve rapidly. This letter offers several critical updates related to accessing sotrovimab and PAXLOVID for your patients. We encourage every provider in Utah to read this letter in its entirety.

**First, with the peak of Omicron past us and declining case counts, medication supply, especially for PAXLOVID, is less of an issue. We are making some changes to eligibility criteria to ensure we are effectively using our supply of COVID-19 therapeutics in Utah:**

1. PAXLOVID will move to the [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) criteria](#) only. The state's risk score will no longer be applied when assessing eligibility for PAXLOVID.
2. The risk score for determining eligibility for sotrovimab will stay in place; however, we will extend eligibility criteria for sotrovimab to the full 10 days as offered under the EUA.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an EUA for the emergency use of **PAXLOVID** for the treatment of [mild-to-moderate COVID-19](#) in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with positive SARS-CoV-2 viral testing, and who are at **high risk<sup>1</sup> for progression to severe COVID-19**, including hospitalization or death.

- PAXLOVID is not authorized for initiation of treatment in patients requiring hospitalization due to severe or critical COVID-19.
- The 5-day treatment course of PAXLOVID should be initiated as soon as possible after a diagnosis of COVID-19 has been made, and within 5 days of symptom onset.
- PAXLOVID may only be prescribed for an individual patient by physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants that are licensed or authorized under state law to prescribe drugs in the therapeutic class to which PAXLOVID belongs (i.e., anti-infectives).

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<sup>1</sup> For information on **medical conditions and factors associated with increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19**, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/needextra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html> Healthcare providers should consider the benefit-risk for an individual patient.



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For **sotrovimab**, we ask that you pay careful attention to the detailed risk stratification of immunocompromised individuals in this [document](#). This group of patients remains uniquely vulnerable, regardless of vaccination status, to the most severe outcomes of COVID-19 and benefits the most from continued access to monoclonal antibodies. In accordance with this guidance, for individuals 16 and older, please assess eligibility for sotrovimab using the following criteria:

Age  $\geq$  16 yo must meet ALL inclusion criteria:

- Test confirmed COVID-19 (PCR or Antigen; home or lab)
- Symptomatic, with no more than 10 days from symptom onset
- NO new hypoxemia (SpO<sub>2</sub><90% on room air; new/increased supplemental oxygen)
- NOT being admitted or already admitted to an acute care hospital for COVID-19 specifically, or for COVID-19 related complications
- IF meeting above inclusion criteria AND severely immunocompromised then the patient is eligible, regardless of vaccination status
- IF meeting above inclusion criteria AND NOT severely immunocompromised, determine eligibility based on COVID-19 vaccination status and other factors
- IF NOT fully vaccinated AND Age 75 or greater, the patient is eligible
- IF NOT fully vaccinated AND Pregnant, the patient must have a Utah COVID-19 Risk Score greater than 3.5 (=4 or more)
- IF NOT fully vaccinated, the patient must have a Utah COVID-19 Risk Score greater than 5.5 (=6 or more)
- IF fully vaccinated, the patient must have a Utah COVID-19 Risk Score greater than 7.5 (=8 or more)



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**Utah COVID-19 Risk Score**

Demographic Risk Factors	Points
Age	<b>0.5 for every decade:</b> 16-20=1, 21-30=1.5, 31-40=2, 41-50=2.5, 51-60=3, 61-70=3.5, 71-80=4, 81-90=4.5, 91-100=5, >100=5.5
<b>Highest-Risk Comorbidities</b>	
Diabetes mellitus	2
Obesity (BMI>30 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	2
<b>Other High-Risk Comorbidities</b>	
Active Cancer	1
Other immunosuppressive therapies and conditions	1
Hypertension	1
Coronary artery disease	1
Cardiac arrhythmia	1
Congestive heart failure	1
Chronic kidney disease	1
Chronic pulmonary disease	1
Chronic liver disease	1
Cerebrovascular disease	1
Chronic neurologic disease	1
<b>Symptom Risk Factor</b>	
New shortness of breath	1
<b>Total</b>	

Second, we are continuing to expand clinical access points across Utah for paxlovid, including select CVS, Walgreens, and Smith's pharmacy locations. PAXLOVID prescribers should thoroughly evaluate their patients for contraindications, with close attention to individuals with kidney and/or liver disease and those with [drug-drug interactions](#). We have compiled several important resources for your reference when prescribing PAXLOVID:

- [PAXLOVID Safety Reference Sheet](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Emergency Use Authorization for PAXLOVID](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents, and Caregivers \(Spanish Version\)](#)
- [Prescriber Checklist](#) written to align with the current EUA criteria for PAXLOVID



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The federal [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#) displays public locations that have received shipments of U.S. Government-procured COVID-19 therapeutics under FDA EUA authority. The locations displayed in the locator have reported stock on hand within the last day, for a list of Utah sites that have been allocated PAXLOVID click on this [link](#). We recommend you call to confirm available supply before sending an e-script or directing your patient to a pharmacy location.

We have made no changes to [sotrovimab treatment locations](#) at this time. For your convenience, use Utah's [risk score calculator](#) to find out if your patient might be eligible for treatment with sotrovimab. Refer to the PAXLOVID [EUA criteria](#) to find out if your patient might be eligible for treatment. More information on the evolving landscape of treatment options for COVID-19 in Utah is available at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/treatments/>.

For a detailed summary of the most recent changes, please see the [COVID-19 Treatments - Information for Medical Providers](#) webpage.

**Finally, if you or your facility are interested in becoming a provider for COVID-19 treatments, please fill out this [survey](#) to let the Department know of your interest.**

Thank you for all you continue to do day-in and day-out to protect Utahns during this challenging time. At no time in the pandemic have I felt such hope for the future. In the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'."

Kindest regards,

Michelle Hofmann, MD, MPH, MHCDS  
Deputy Director and Chief Medical Advisor, Utah Department of Health