



# Is monoclonal antibody therapy right for me?

If you or a loved one test positive for COVID-19, you may now have treatment options. COVID-19 treatment options are available for high-risk adults and children, including newborns, to reduce the risk of becoming seriously ill. Talk to your doctor about your risk and your treatment options so you can decide what's right for you.



**Step 1:** Test positive for COVID-19, develop symptoms, and answer yes to high-risk conditions.



**Step 2:** Contact health care provider for referral.



**Step 3:** Contact an available infusion location ([covid.infusioncenter.org](https://covid.infusioncenter.org)).

**Monoclonal antibody therapy must be administered within 7 days of symptom onset.**

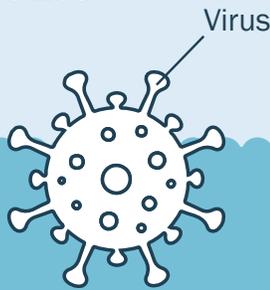
## What are antibodies?

Antibodies are naturally made in our bodies to fight infection.

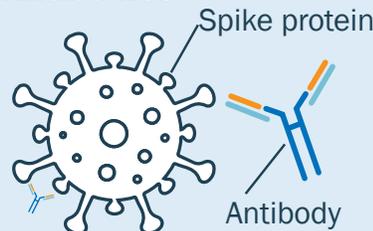
### Without Antibodies

A virus enters a cell

Cell lining

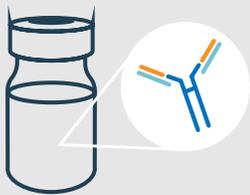


### With Antibodies



Antibodies block the virus from entering the cell or enable it to be destroyed.

## What are monoclonal antibodies?



Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are **proteins developed in a laboratory**. They act like natural antibodies to attack and neutralize the virus.

Monoclonal antibody therapies are usually administered through an intravenous (IV) infusion, but can be given by subcutaneous injections.

The federal government is distributing antibody supplies **at no cost to patients**, but if you have insurance, an administrative fee may be billed..

When administered to non-hospitalized, high-risk patients as soon as possible after positive viral testing for COVID-19 and within 7 days of symptom onset, monoclonal antibodies **may improve symptoms and reduce risk of hospitalizations and death** associated with COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies may also be used as prevention following exposure to COVID-19 for high-risk patients, a treatment method known as post exposure prophylaxis (PEP).

**Monoclonal antibody therapy is not a substitute for vaccination.**

## Who is eligible to receive mAb therapy?

There are monoclonal antibody therapy (mAb) options for those who are at increased risk of hospitalization or death, and are not hospitalized when treatment begins. Those who are immunocompromised or not up to date on COVID-19 vaccine are particularly at risk, as well as those with any of the following conditions identified in the Emergency Use Authorization:

- Older age (for example: 65 years and older)
- Obesity or being overweight (Body Mass Index > 25), or [BMI ≥85th percentile](#) for pediatrics
- Pregnancy
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes
- Immunosuppressive disease or receiving immunosuppressive treatment
- Cardiovascular disease (including congenital heart disease) or hypertension
- Chronic lung diseases (for example: COPD or moderate to severe asthma, etc.)
- Sickle cell disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorders (for example: cerebral palsy) or other complexity conditions
- Medical-related technological dependence (for example: tracheostomy or gastrostomy)
- [Other conditions](#) identified by the CDC for persons who are at risk for severe disease

### **If you or a loved one have been exposed to COVID-19, you may now have treatment options.**

Monoclonal antibody therapy has also received authorization for use as post-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in individuals who are at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19 and are:

- Not fully vaccinated or who are not expected to mount an adequate immune response to complete vaccination (for example, individuals with immunocompromising conditions including those taking immunosuppressive medications) and
  - Have been exposed to an individual infected with COVID-19 consistent with [close contact criteria](#), or
  - Who are at high risk of exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19 because of occurrence of COVID-19 infection in other individuals in the same institutional setting

**Monoclonal antibody therapy is not a substitute for vaccination.**

**Find an infusion location**  
[covid.infusioncenter.org](https://covid.infusioncenter.org)



If you have questions, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDtherapy](https://Michigan.gov/COVIDtherapy), call the COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 or email [COVID19@michigan.gov](mailto:COVID19@michigan.gov).