NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | **Department of Health**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARY T. BASSETT, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

KRISTIN M. PROUD
Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner

Date: April 19, 2022
To: Nursing Homes
From: New York State Department of Health

COVID-19 ORAL ANTIVIRAL TREATMENT AVAILABLE

Summary:
- Don't delay. Test soon and treat early to improve outcomes from COVID-19.
- Oral antivirals are a convenient COVID-19 treatment.

As part of the Department of Health's 'Test Soon, Treat Early' efforts, we want to remind you of a valuable treatment option for COVID-19 -- oral antivirals. Because treatments for COVID-19 are most effective when given soon after infection and oral antivirals do not require an IV or injection, they can be the most convenient and easiest to administer.

There are two oral antivirals that have Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for treatment of COVID-19, Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir). When treating residents who are confirmed COVID-positive and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19, strong consideration should be given to using an oral antiviral.

Eligibility
Oral antiviral treatment is authorized for patients who meet all the following criteria:

- Age 12 years or older weighing at least 40 kg (88 pounds) for Paxlovid, or 18 years or older for Lagevrio (molnupiravir)

- Test positive for SARS-CoV-2 on a nucleic acid amplification test or antigen test; results from an FDA-authorized home-test kit should be validated through video or photo but, if not possible, patient attestation is acceptable

- Have mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms

  o Patient must not be hospitalized due to severe or critical COVID-19

- Able to start treatment within 5 days of symptom onset

Availability
Both Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir) are currently available from your LTC pharmacy if they are participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program, in your own nursing home pharmacies, or local retail pharmacies in your communities. Specific locations can be found using the COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator. If you do not currently have access to Paxlovid or Lagevrio (molnupiravir), you can contact the Department at COVID19Therapeutics@health.ny.gov to request product.

Additional questions about COVID-19 treatment options or availability can be sent to COVID19Therapeutics@health.ny.gov.