

# Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for COVID-19

Monoclonal antibody treatment is for people who have COVID-19 or were recently exposed to someone who has COVID-19, and are not hospitalized. Treatment can lower the amount of virus in your body, reduce symptoms and help avoid hospitalization. **Treatment works best when you get it soon after COVID-19 symptoms begin, so it is important to get tested right away.**

## What is monoclonal antibody treatment?

Monoclonal antibodies are made in a lab and work similarly to antibodies your immune system makes to fight infection. Monoclonal antibody treatment helps your body fight COVID-19 while your immune system begins to make its own antibodies. In clinical studies, monoclonal antibody treatments were shown to be safe and effective.

## Who is eligible for monoclonal antibody treatment?

Treatment is authorized for people who meet all the following:

- ✓ Tested positive for COVID-19
- ✓ Have had mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms for 10 days or less
- ✓ Are age 12 or older and weigh at least 88 pounds
- ✓ Are at a high risk for severe COVID-19 illness, including older adults, people who are pregnant and people with certain underlying health conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease or a weakened immune system



## What if I was exposed to COVID-19 but do not have symptoms?

Monoclonal antibodies can lower your chance of getting sick after being exposed to COVID-19. Talk to your health care provider about treatment if you are at high risk for severe illness and were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

## How is monoclonal antibody treatment given?

Treatment is usually given by intravenous (IV) infusion and takes about an hour. Treatment can also be given by injection. Patients are observed for an additional hour to make sure they do not have any immediate bad reactions.

## What are the side effects?

Side effects may include:

- A reaction at the site of the IV or injection, including pain, swelling, bleeding or bruising
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Itching, rash or hives

Allergic reactions and other serious side effects are very rare. If you experience fever, trouble breathing, rapid or slow heart rate, tiredness, weakness, confusion, or other concerning symptoms, contact your provider right away. Call **911** or go to an emergency department if your symptoms become severe or worsen.

## Where can I get monoclonal antibody treatment?

Call your provider right away if you test positive for COVID-19 to see if you are eligible for treatment and for help finding a treatment site. You can also talk to an NYC Health + Hospitals doctor by visiting **expresscare.nyc** and clicking "Talk to a Doctor Now," or calling 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319). For a list of monoclonal antibody treatment locations, visit **hitesite.org/monoclonalantibody**.



### How much does monoclonal antibody treatment cost?

Treatment is covered by Medicaid and Medicare plans at no cost. If you have private insurance, check with the treating facility and your health plan about costs. NYC Health + Hospitals provides treatment and care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

### Can I get monoclonal antibody treatment if I received a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and test positive, you can receive treatment.



### Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine after receiving monoclonal antibody treatment?

Yes, but you should wait 90 days after treatment before getting vaccinated.

### What if I have not been tested for COVID-19?

If you have symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, or loss of sense of taste or smell, or are otherwise feeling unwell, get tested right away. Visit [nyc.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest), text "COVID TEST" to 855-48 or call **311** to find a testing site near you.



### How can I learn more about monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19?

Visit [combatcovid.hhs.gov](https://combatcovid.hhs.gov).

For more information, visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) or call **311**.

