



Public Health Brief

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New Tool in Our Toolbox

Alpine County Public Health has just received its first allocation of the antiviral medication known as Paxlovid. This is available from us and is used to prevent serious illness if you start to get sick from COVID-19. It is given orally as 3 pills twice daily for 5 days, initiated as soon as possible and within 5 days of symptom onset in those 12 years of age or older and weighing greater than 88 pounds.

It must be given as soon as possible after the onset of symptoms. It also requires a positive test performed by us. Since the supply at this time is very limited, its use will be restricted to persons who are at high risk of needing hospitalization and are at high risk of dying if they get infected. The list of underlying medical conditions is at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

Highest priority will be given to:

- Immunocompromised individuals not expected to mount an immune response to vaccination or infection due to their underlying conditions
- Unvaccinated individuals at the highest risk of severe disease, especially those over the age of 74, those over 64 with additional risk factors, and then those under 64 with clinical risk factors.

As supply increases and is available, then medication can be provided to vaccinated persons at risk of severe disease due to their age and/or clinical risk factors.

If you become sick with COVID symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>), and if you are unvaccinated (includes person without a booster), are older than 64 years of age, or have underlying medical conditions at any age >11 years of age, call us at 530-694-2146, Option 1 to get tested. We will interview you to determine eligibility, provide rapid testing, review any medications that you are currently taking, and supply Paxlovid as appropriate. As supply increases, we will expand the categories of person who are eligible.

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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