



# Monoclonal Antibodies

## for COVID-19 Public Health Departments and Government Entities

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# MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Communities around the globe are joining forces to defeat COVID-19. To ensure communities have access to consistent, evidence-based resources, services, best practices and guidance, we know that public health departments and government entities have an important role to play. Communities need to know they can trust that their public health departments and government entities are working closely with organizations and experts across industries that play a role in the long-term recovery process.

Healthcare Ready was founded in 2006 after Hurricane Katrina to focus on connecting patients to available healthcare during disasters. Since then, Healthcare Ready ([healthcareready.org](http://healthcareready.org)) has evolved to a nonprofit organization that works to build and enhance the resiliency of communities before, during, and after disasters. Today, Healthcare Ready offers the following programs to benefit communities.

- **Map Your Meds:** This map allows constituents to find information on changes to prescription medication rules and laws in your state due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Use this resource by visiting [www.healthcareready.org/covid19-patient-resources/meds/](http://www.healthcareready.org/covid19-patient-resources/meds/).
- **Rx Open:** Rx Open helps patients get access to medicine in an emergency by mapping the location of open and closed pharmacies in a disaster-stricken area on the free [www.RxOpen.org](http://www.RxOpen.org) and [www.HealthcareReady.org](http://www.HealthcareReady.org) websites. Government officials and first responders use Rx Open to coordinate response and recovery efforts. Relief agencies rely on Rx Open to ensure people in shelters have access to pharmacies. It also shows open American Red Cross shelters.
- **Rx On the Run:** Are your constituents prepared if a disaster strikes? Many people stock up on water, bread and canned goods, but forget about their medicines. Your constituents can use Rx on the Run at [www.HealthcareReady.org/rx-on-the-run](http://www.HealthcareReady.org/rx-on-the-run) to print a personalized wallet card that documents their prescriptions and other important medical information.
- **COVID-19 Resource Hub:** As response efforts continue, Healthcare Ready continues to monitor and track resources for constituents. Resources and toolkits for individuals and patients include [state-level insurance emergency orders on prescription refills, tips to protect yourself from COVID-19, and telehealth coverage policies for COVID-19](#). The resources hub also includes relevant [pandemic business continuity resources](#) for the healthcare supply chain including best practices for disinfection and infection control and guidance for workforce protection, including preparedness resources and toolkits. Feel free to contact Healthcare Ready with any inquiries about additional resources or unmet needs in your communities.

Constituents may also call 2-1-1 – available across several localities in the US – to ask about local services that may help them pay for their medications.

- **Community & Constituent Collaboration:** Healthcare Ready utilizes a streamlined donation process to allow companies across the healthcare industry to work directly with our organization to provide in-kind and monetary support while continuing to prioritize requests for these critical needs. Examples of requests that Healthcare Ready can support include:
  - Guidance on preparedness plans to protect your community's health during disaster
  - Facilitating the delivery of medical supplies to healthcare groups and community organizations
  - Providing assistance to help patients navigate their healthcare needs such as information on refilling prescription medications during a crisis.

This toolkit provides best practices and resources on monoclonal antibody treatments for public health departments and government entities to share with constituents and community leaders as our communities enter the recovery stage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

# WHAT ARE MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR COVID-19?

Monoclonal antibody treatments, also known as mAbs treatments, are lab-created antibodies used to combat COVID-19 in patients who test positive for COVID-19. An antigen is a harmful foreign substance in the body, which triggers the body's production of antibodies. Antibodies are blood proteins produced by the body to attack antigens such as bacteria and viruses (like COVID-19). Monoclonal antibodies use lab-created antibodies to prevent and minimize the symptoms of and risk of hospitalization due to the COVID-19 virus.

[Monoclonal antibodies work differently from vaccines](#), in that they prepare our immune systems for the present infection – they don't prevent an infection the way vaccines do. Monoclonal antibodies can even be used by people who have already been vaccinated but become ill from COVID-19 after vaccination. Vaccines are necessary in eliminating COVID-19, and we also need effective therapies at our disposal to protect those that contract COVID-19.

## IMPORTANCE OF mAbs

By assisting our body's immune system in real-time, mAbs can reduce the length and severity of COVID-19 infections. The ability to reduce the severity of COVID-19 in infected patients is especially meaningful for at-risk patients, such as [immunocompromised persons](#) that can't receive a COVID-19 vaccine or build the same level of immunity after vaccination, persons with [underlying health conditions](#), older persons, and [members of underserved communities](#) who have been hit hardest by this pandemic.

## ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES ON mAbs

Patients who test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and are eligible for mAbs treatment have up to ten days maximum to receive it. You are eligible for treatments if you are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19, and at least one of the following apply (For the full eligibility list, please visit the [COMBATCOVID](#) site):

- Heart disease or high blood pressure
- Chronic kidney disease or diabetes
- Chronic lung disease (COPD, cystic fibrosis, moderate to severe asthma, or other respiratory conditions)
- Immunosuppressive disease or treatment
- Sickle cell disease
- Are overweight or obese
- You have high risk exposure to COVID-19 due to living or working in congregant settings (e.g., nursing homes or prisons)

## TIMELINESS OF mAbs

Due to the ten day window to receive mAbs treatment, people need to be made aware about the availability of this treatment before they actually need it. Monoclonal antibody treatment must take place as soon as one tests positive for COVID-19, or is exposed to someone with COVID-19 as it's more effective the sooner its used. See below for ways public health departments and government entities can raise awareness of mAbs:

- Information on mAbs treatments can be posted around COVID-19 testing sites, so that people who test positive for COVID-19 will understand their treatment options.

- Public health departments and government entities can utilize their collaborative networks to identify and share resources about where people can access mAbs treatments when they're needed. Having a list of sites available and including information on availability and sites on their website are actions public health departments and government entities can take. For assistance in identifying and expanding availability in their area, call us at 1-866-247-2694.
- Public health departments and government entities can invest in medical research and practice, so that the health care community can continue innovating ways to administer mAbs treatments to patients (such as the recent administration of subcutaneous injection method in addition to the original infusion method).
- Public health departments and government entities can address access issues to these treatments, particularly in underserved communities, potentially by: expanding appointment options beyond telehealth in communities where broadband internet access is limited; waiving appointment, administrative, and other fees for persons who do not have health care coverage; providing transportation options to mAbs treatment centers for communities that don't have adequate public transportation routes to these centers. There are infrequently dialysis centers located near Federally Qualified Health Centers. [The Rural Transportation Toolkit](#) can support implementing rural transportation programs.
- Public health departments and government entities should strongly consider communicating with community members directly to address needs and lower access obstacles to mAbs treatments, and to spread awareness about mAbs treatments to the general community.
- Public health departments and government entities should take time to understand priority groups for these treatments based on risk of infection and severe outcomes of COVID-19. One such priority group is people of color in the United States, who are at high risk of COVID-19 infection due to factors such as economic situations, unemployment, high numbers of essential workers, living in multigenerational households, frequent public transit use and rates of incarceration. Social determinants of health also affect this priority group's high risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes due to factors such as poverty, lack of health insurance coverage, lack of broadband internet access, and institutional racism (i.e. health care provider bias).

**[Monoclonal antibody treatments are already mostly free](#)**, so increasing information about and decreasing barriers to these treatments will save lives from Coronavirus.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Please see below for additional resources and one-pagers that can be used in the community to promote mAbs.

## HEALTHCARE READY RESOURCES ON mAbs TREATMENTS:

- [Prioritizing Vulnerable & At-Risk Individuals in the New Stage of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [mAbs Treatment: Minimizing Hurdles and Why Accessibility Matters](#)

## EXTERNAL RESOURCES ON mAbs TREATMENTS:

- [CMS: Monoclonal Antibody COVID-19 Infusion](#)
- [NIH: COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#)
- [CDC: Treatments Your Healthcare Provider Might Recommend if You Are Sick](#)
- [HHS: COVID-19 Treatments and Therapeutics](#)
- [U. S. Department of Health and Human Services COMBATCOVID](#)
- [Medicare: monoclonal antibody treatments](#)
- [Infectious Disease Society of America: mAbs](#)
- [FDA Fact Sheet on REGEN-COV, on Sotrovimab](#)
- [FDA Fact Sheet on Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab](#)  
– The current EUA for combination therapy with bamlanivimab with etesevimab remains active but is no longer distributed as of June 25, 2021 due to higher circulation of variants.
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization List of Drug and Biological Therapeutic Products](#)

## PATIENT RESOURCES: (REGENERON DEVELOPED)

- [Exposed to COVID-19? What you do next is critical.](#)
- [Information About Covid-19: A Treatment Option \(Patients-English\)](#)
- [Two Ways to Fight Covid-19 Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies](#)
- [The Complementary Roles of Vaccines and Monoclonal Antibodies in Combatting the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Advantage of Dual Monoclonal Antibody Infographic](#)
- [Casirivimab and Imdevimab, Neutralize SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#)
- [Seek Treatment Now](#)
- [What to Expect on the Day of Infusion Guide](#)

## PATIENT RESOURCES: (GSK DEVELOPED)

- [Combatting COVID-19: How do we tackle emerging variants?](#)

## PATIENT RESOURCES: (ELI LILLY DEVELOPED)

- [SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody Program Update](#)

# INFORM YOUR COMMUNITIES

We encourage you to share or repost Healthcare Ready information on your social media channels, as well as in your newsletters or through public service announcements. Please see below for suggested messaging.

## SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT SAMPLE

- **Example 1:** We are all working to find credible, factual information about COVID-19. The team at @HC\_Ready has created a helpful page on available COVID-19 treatment options, including monoclonal antibody (mAbs) treatments. Learn more here: <https://cutt.ly/0mwqKGh>
- **Example 2:** Wondering how you can recover from COVID-19 if you test positive for having the virus? @HC\_Ready developed a page on available COVID-19 treatments options, known as monoclonal antibody (mAbs) treatments: <https://cutt.ly/0mwqKGh>
- **Example 3:** With Americans around the U.S. still testing positive for COVID-19, it's important to know how COVID-19 treatments work and whether you and loved ones are eligible for them. Learn more about monoclonal antibody (mAbs) treatments here: <https://cutt.ly/0mwqKGh>

## NEWSLETTER CONTENT SAMPLE

As COVID-19 continues to impact the United States, concerned Americans are wondering what they can do to treat COVID-19 if they test positive for having the virus, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. While you plan for the unexpected, do you know what COVID-19 treatments options are available for you and your loved ones?

Monoclonal Antibody (mAbs) to treat COVID-19 have been shown to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 infection by 70% in clinical trials. Read about mAbs treatment accessibility and what you or a loved one will need to access treatments here: [www.healthcareready.org/mabs-treatment-minimizing-hurdles-and-why-accessibility-matters](http://www.healthcareready.org/mabs-treatment-minimizing-hurdles-and-why-accessibility-matters).

Your health care provider should always be your number one source of information and guidance on COVID-19 treatment options. Use this resource to know what your care provider might recommend to you if you're sick with COVID-19: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html). Older Americans are one group of people that may be eligible for mAbs treatment options if they test positive for having the COVID-19 virus. Know whether your Medicare plan covers mAbs treatment for you or a loved one by visiting [www.medicare.gov/coverage/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-mono-clonal-antibody-treatments](http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-mono-clonal-antibody-treatments).

Learn more about these treatments and whether you and your loved ones are eligible for them at [www.healthcareready.org/covid-19-in-your-first-10-days-theres-a-treatment-for-that](http://www.healthcareready.org/covid-19-in-your-first-10-days-theres-a-treatment-for-that).

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SCRIPT

As COVID-19 vaccination numbers go up and COVID-19 cases go down in the United States, it is easy to forget that this deadly virus is still out there. Be prepared for an unexpected COVID-19 diagnosis by knowing what treatment options are available. Learn more about COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments and whether you or a loved one are eligible for them at [www.HealthcareReady.org](http://www.HealthcareReady.org).

# CONTACT HEALTHCARE READY

Questions about our services and resources, including requests for information, assistance or additional resources can be sent to Healthcare Ready via:

- **Email:**
  - Response-related questions or assistance: [Alerts@HealthcareReady.org](mailto:Alerts@HealthcareReady.org)
  - General outreach to Healthcare Ready: [ContactUs@HealthcareReady.org](mailto:ContactUs@HealthcareReady.org)
- **Hotline:** 1-866-247-2694
- Sign up for Healthcare Ready's weekly "Situation Reports" that provide routine overviews on the response and critical information that can help you protect your communities. Request to be added to the email list here: <http://www.healthcareready.org/contact-us>

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

- **Twitter:**  [@HC\\_Ready](https://twitter.com/HC_Ready)
- **Facebook:**  [fb.com/HealthcareReady](https://fb.com/HealthcareReady)
- **LinkedIn:**  [linkedin.com/company/healthcare-ready](https://linkedin.com/company/healthcare-ready)