

If you think you have COVID-19, get tested.

Paxlovid must be started within 5 days of any symptoms starting and it is very important to get tested if you think you may have COVID.

Testing will usually be a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) which is done at home. RAT tests are free and can be ordered from [Request a RAT | Ministry of Health NZ \(covid19.health.nz\)](#) or telephone freephone 0800 222 748 (option 3) or contact your GP or health provider.

Please **register any positive result immediately** through <https://mycovidrecord.health.nz/>.

This is so your GP will know to contact you straight away, but you can also contact your GP before this yourself. If you have any problems registering your result, please telephone Freephone 0800 222 748 (option 3) or contact your GP.

You can then discuss with your GP whether Paxlovid would be suitable for you. It is not suitable or available for everyone with COVID – only those more likely to become seriously ill. There are also a number of medicines you may already be taking which would mean Paxlovid would not be recommended.

Symptoms of COVID-19

- ✓ New or worsening cough.
- ✓ Sneezing, runny nose.
- ✓ Fever.
- ✓ Sore throat.
- ✓ Shortness of breath.
- ✓ Loss of smell or taste.
- ✓ These other symptoms may occur but not usually on their own:
 - ✓ Diarrhoea.
 - ✓ Nausea.
 - ✓ Fatigue.
 - ✓ Chest pain or muscle ache.

Remember!

If you think you are at high risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID and you think you have symptoms, please get tested and register your result, or contact your GP as soon possible

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Paxlovid

Am I eligible?

If you or someone you know is at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19, you may be eligible for a free treatment to reduce the chance of this happening.

Paxlovid – Am I Eligible?

This treatment is called Paxlovid and is now available in Aotearoa New Zealand. It has been shown to significantly decrease the chances of becoming seriously ill from COVID if you are at high risk. It can be taken by mouth, but it **must** be started within five days of any COVID symptoms starting. It is important you know about it and can talk to your GP or health provider as soon as you have or think you may have COVID-19.

It is only available on prescription from a doctor – either your GP or specialist doctor. It can be given to someone who is at increased risk if they have had a positive test for COVID **or** they have symptoms and are a household contact, i.e. they are living with someone who is known to have COVID.

Who is eligible for Paxlovid?

You may be eligible for Paxlovid if you have any of the following:

- Immunocompromise – where your immune system is unable to fight COVID effectively. If you were eligible for a third primary COVID vaccine because of immunocompromise, then you will be eligible for Paxlovid. Please discuss with your GP or specialist if you have any of the following or think you may be at increased risk:
 - ✓ Medications that weaken your immunity.
 - ✓ Certain cancers, including bone cancers.
 - ✓ Have had a bone marrow or organ transplant.
 - ✓ Certain conditions that may affect immunity.
- Down Syndrome.
- Sickle cell disease.

- If you have several of the following you may also be eligible. Please discuss with your GP or specialist if you have any of the following or think you may be at increased risk:
 - ✓ You are Māori or Pacific.
 - ✓ You are 50 years or older.
 - ✓ You have not been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - ✓ You have other medical conditions that increase your chances of becoming very ill from COVID, for example
 - ✓ Certain cancers or treatment for cancer.
 - ✓ Diabetes.
 - ✓ Severe heart disease.
 - ✓ High blood pressure.
 - ✓ Chronic lung disease.
 - ✓ Chronic kidney disease.
 - ✓ Chronic neurological disease.
 - ✓ Severe liver disease.
 - ✓ Chronic blood disorders.
 - ✓ Severe mental illness.
 - ✓ You are very obese.