

Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) fact sheet

Monoclonal antibody (mAb) therapy can help prevent severe illness and reduce the number of lives lost due to COVID-19.

This therapy is now available at more providers across the state, making it easier to get.

Why get mAb therapy?

- It is highly effective at preventing hospitalizations due to COVID-19 and reducing development of COVID-19 in those exposed.
- It reduces risk of death.
- It is proven effective against the Delta variant.

What are monoclonal antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies (mAbs) are antibodies developed in a lab that block the virus from entering your cells and reduce the severity of disease and hospitalization.

Who is eligible for mAb therapy?

Individuals 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kg) and who:

1. Have tested positive for COVID-19

- Are within 10 days of having symptoms
- Have mild to moderate symptoms
- Are not hospitalized i.e., can be treated at home and are not on oxygen therapy
- And are considered [high risk patients](#).

OR

2. Have been exposed to COVID-19 or are at high risk of exposure due to cases in an institutional setting (like nursing homes) AND are not completely vaccinated AND are considered [high risk](#). Fully vaccinated people are also eligible in certain situations.

What can I expect if I get monoclonal antibody treatment?

Monoclonal antibody treatment is a fluid given using a needle either into a vein (infusion) or under the skin (subcutaneously). Your healthcare provider or the site where you will be getting treatment will explain which treatment you will get. For both procedures, needles are used by a trained medical professional.

If you are unvaccinated, you should wait 90 days after your treatment to get the vaccine.

Receiving mAb treatment does not change the duration of quarantine and isolation required. Continue to follow the guidance provided by your local health department.

Infusion (In your vein)

You will have to go to an infusion center with specially trained staff in order to receive monoclonal antibodies as an infusion.

This treatment is given as a fluid into your vein using a needle (intravenous). It will take 20 - 50 minutes, and possibly longer, to finish the infusion. You will be asked to wait another hour after the infusion to make sure you don't have serious side effects.

Subcutaneous (Under your skin)

If you receive monoclonal antibody treatment subcutaneously, you will get four shots with a short needle inserted under your skin in four separate places on your body. These usually include the back of the arms, the stomach and/or the thighs. Receiving all four shots takes about 1-3 minutes. You will be asked to wait an hour after your shots to make sure you don't have serious side effects.

Side effects

With either treatment, you might have some discomfort at the injection site. This is common and should go away in a few days.

Some people may experience a mild reaction including:

- Brief pain
- Mild bleeding
- Bruising
- Soreness
- Swelling

These are similar to what you may experience when getting other medicines by injection, like the Covid-19 vaccine or a flu shot. These may last for a few days.

If you notice changes such as pain, redness, drainage, numbness, tingling, or other concerning symptoms near your injection site, call your healthcare provider.

Rare allergic reaction

It is rare, but some people can have a severe allergic reaction to monoclonal antibody treatment. Everyone is asked to wait for at least one hour after treatment to make sure there is no serious allergic reaction and so help can be given right away if needed.

Other serious reactions

A very small number of people may experience a rare, but serious reaction to the treatment. Talk to your healthcare provider or seek medical care if you have any of these more serious symptoms in the days after your treatment:

- Upset stomach (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea)
- Itching, swelling, rash, or hives
- Dizziness or low blood pressure
- Changes in your heartbeat
- Any new or worsening symptoms
- Difficulty breathing
- Weakness
- Confusion

The different types of monoclonal antibody treatments

Casirivimab/Imdevimab- A combination of two antibodies to help your body respond to the COVID-19 virus if you test positive or to be used to prevent illness if you are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. This medication can be given through an IV infusion (in a vein) or as four shots under the skin. You will need to be monitored for 1 hour after treatment.

Bamlanivimab/Etesivimab- A combination of two antibodies to help your body respond to the COVID-19 virus if you test positive or to be used to prevent illness if you are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. This medication can only be given through an IV infusion (in a vein). You will need to be monitored for 1 hour after treatment.

Sotrovimab- A single antibody to help your body respond to the COVID-19 virus if you test positive. This medication can only be given through an IV infusion (in a vein). You will need to be monitored for 1 hour after treatment.

What to expect after treatment?

After your treatment you should go home, rest and take care of your COVID-19 symptoms if you have them. If you have discomfort where you got the injections, you can use a cold compress the day of your treatment. After that, warmth (like a heating pad) can help heal any bruising.

Most people will not need any additional follow up treatments. Your healthcare provider will talk to you if they think you should get additional treatment.

You may begin to feel your COVID-19 symptoms improve quickly, or it may still take a while before you begin to feel better. In some cases, you may experience worsening COVID-19 symptoms. You should seek medical attention right away if your symptoms are serious, including:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone.

To report serious side effects

1. Tell your healthcare provider right away
2. Report your side effects to FDA MedWatch at www.fda.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088 or call 1-844- 734-6643.

Who to call with questions

If you have questions or concerns about your treatment, call your healthcare provider or the clinic or pharmacy where you received your treatment.

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the COVID-19 Communications Unit at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us.