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Update: Ontario Health Clinical Recommendations for Antiviral Therapy for Adults with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 and New LU Codes for Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid)

Update: Immunization Record Submission and Catch-up Immunization for JK to Grade 5

Attention: Physicians, Hospitals, CNE, ER Manager, ER Physician, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Professionals, Community Health Centres, Walk-In Urgent Care Clinic, Nurse Practitioner, Ontario Health, Ontario Health Teams, Midwives, Family Health Team, Indigenous Healthcare & Community, Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Neighbouring Health Units, Paramedic Services, Corrections

Date: June 4, 2024

UPDATE: Ontario Health Clinical Recommendations for Antiviral Therapy for Adults with Mild to Moderate COVID-19 & New LU codes for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid)

Ontario Health (OH) has updated its clinical [Recommendations for Antiviral Therapy for Adults with Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#). The update includes:

- Updated guidance for when antiviral therapy is **recommended** and when it **may be considered** based on a healthcare provider’s clinical judgment.
- An updated list of risk factors that are associated with more severe COVID-19 outcomes.
- Changes to the COVID-19 severity classification.
- An overview of the real-world evidence for antiviral therapies.

NOTE: Funding for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid®) will **transition to typical models** in May 2024 including select government drug benefit programs, private insurance, or payment directly by patients. Federal government procurement of Paxlovid® has ended.

Ontario Drug Program Limited Use Notes:

| Reason for Use Code | Clinical Criteria |
|---------------------|---|
| 673 | For the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in patients 65 years of age or older with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a positive result from direct viral testing (either using rapid antigen test or PCR), and - symptoms present for 5 days or fewer. |



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| 674 | <p>For the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in immunocompromised* patients 18 years of age or older regardless of vaccine status or prior COVID-19 infections with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a positive result from direct viral testing (either using rapid antigen test or PCR), and - symptoms present for five (5) days or fewer. |
| 675 | <p>For the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in patients 18 to 64 years of age with at least 1 risk factor* associated with more severe COVID-19 outcomes with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a positive result from direct viral testing (either using rapid antigen test or PCR), and - symptoms present for five (5) days or fewer. |

*OH, [Recommendations for Antiviral Therapy for Adults with Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#)

More Information:

- OH, [Frequently Asked Questions on Antiviral Therapy for Adults with Mild to Moderate COVID-19](#)
- OH, [Access to Antiviral Therapy for COVID-19 in the Community](#)

Update: Immunization Record Submission and Catch-up Immunization for JK to Grade 5

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is sending out immunization notices to families of elementary students with no immunization record on file at the health unit or who are missing immunizations. SMDHU does not have clinic capacity to see all students requiring immunizations. Therefore, SMDHU will be directing families with a primary care provider (PCP) to book an appointment to receive the vaccines they require. SMDHU will continue to offer catch-up immunization clinics for students who are behind on their required vaccinations under the ISPA and who do not have a PCP. The following table outlines the schedule of notices sent to students whose record on file with the health unit is not update to date according to the ISPA:

| | Initial Letters | 2nd Notices | Suspension Planned |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elementary Students (JK-Grade 2) | Sent home via school April -June 2024 | Fall 2024 | Tentative Spring 2025 |
| Elementary Students (Grade 3-5) | Mailed home January 2024 | Mailed home June 2024 | January 2025 |

When you provide immunizations to school age children in your practice, be sure to remind parents that they need to report this information to the health unit so that their child’s record on file can be updated. Through our immunization surveillance process, we find many children have received the vaccines, but they just have not reported the information to the health unit. Ensuring that patients know to report the information to the health unit at the time the vaccines are received, will prevent them from receiving notifications from us years later and having to contact your practice to obtain the information needed to update their record.

Parents can access our online reporting system 24/7 at www.smdhu.org/immsonline to report their child’s vaccinations, or by calling Health Connection Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.