

NOTICE

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To: Health Care Providers in Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark

From: Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health

Date: April 12, 2022

Subject: Public Health Update - Paxlovid

The Ministry of Health has expanded the Paxlovid COVID-19 antiviral medication program.

- [COVID-19 antiviral treatment | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#)

New groups are also now eligible for PCR testing at Assessment/Testing Centres so that more people, who could have serious infection, are aware they have COVID-19, and can be considered by a physician for Paxlovid therapy.

- Anyone 70+
- Anyone 18+ who is immune-compromised
- Anyone 60+ who has NOT had 3 doses of vaccine
- Anyone 18+ who has NOT had 3 doses of vaccine AND has at least one risk factor (see link for details)

The public can use this link to see if they are eligible: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-treatment-screener>

People who fit the eligibility criteria above are encouraged to see their health care provider now so they can be assessed for eligibility for Paxlovid, including assessing possible drug interactions, and then be given a prescription for Paxlovid should they develop COVID-19 symptoms and receive a positive test – either PCR or RAT.

The documents below provide more details about the expanded provincial program.

- [Guidance](#) for providers on access to COVID-19 antiviral treatment (Paxlovid).
- A [patient handout](#) with information on who can get Paxlovid, how to get assessed for treatment, and how Paxlovid works.

Paxlovid will now be available in community pharmacies with a prescription from community or hospital-based physicians. The listing of pharmacies will be on the provincial Website on Wednesday, April 13th at 8:00 a.m. The plan is to add more pharmacies over time.

Public Health is posting information for the public on our Website www.healthunit.org and will be sharing it with those who call us for information about the program.