

HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, other Healthcare Providers

FROM: Dr. Deepika Lobo, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: February 1, 2023

RE: **Paxlovid (Anti-viral Treatment for COVID-19)**

QUICK FACTS

- Paxlovid (anti-viral treatment for COVID-19) continues to be available to eligible residents in Halton Region free of charge.
- Paxlovid can be accessed by residents through their physician, nurse practitioner or a participating pharmacist.
- Eligibility criteria has expanded to now include anyone over the age of 18 who is unvaccinated and those who are 60 years of age and older.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Paxlovid and Tamiflu can be given at the same time where warranted. The decision to initiate this treatment is at the discretion of the treating physician.
- Individuals who are eligible for Paxlovid are those with a positive COVID-19 PCR, rapid molecular or rapid antigen test, including rapid tests done at home and are:
 - 60 years of age or older; OR
 - 18 years of age or older and immunocompromised; OR
 - 18-59 years old and at a higher risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes including having chronic medical conditions (ie. diabetes, heart disease); OR
 - 18 years of age or older and have inadequate immunity to COVID-19 (ie. not up to date on vaccines)

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Paxlovid is an anti-viral treatment for COVID-19 that when initiated within 5 days of symptom onset, can reduce severe outcomes of COVID-19.
- COVID-19 testing locations and clinical assessment centres are listed at [COVID-19 testing locations \(ontario.ca\)](#)
- Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations remains the best defense against COVID-19 and its variants. Visit [Halton Region's website](#) for COVID-19 vaccination information, booking and locations.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Recommendations on who should receive Paxlovid](#), Ministry of Health

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (only report COVID-19 cases occurring in high-risk settings) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY TO ALL PHYSICIANS IN YOUR OFFICE AND/OR POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES. IF YOU HAVE ANY ISSUES WITH THIS ATTACHMENT, PLEASE EMAIL DOCTORS@HALTON.CA.