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FDA Updates EUA to Allow Pharmacists to Prescribe Paxlovid

The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) released by the FDA for Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir) can be prescribed by pharmacists. Paxlovid is used to treat patients 12 years or older testing positive for COVID-19 and high risk for progression of severe COVID-19.

“The FDA recognizes the important role pharmacists have played and continue to play in combatting this pandemic,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., director for the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. **“Since Paxlovid must be taken within five days after symptoms begin, authorizing state-licensed pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid could expand access to timely treatment for some patients who are eligible to receive this drug for the treatment of COVID-19.”**

Reference: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-pharmacists-prescribe-paxlovid-certain-limitations>

From the Division of Public Health at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare:

The distribution of COVID-19 oral antivirals is currently coordinated by the federal government on a weekly cycle. Each week, the federal government provides the states and territories a threshold amount against which orders can be placed. In Idaho, the Department of Health and Welfare solicits requests for the oral antivirals from participating sites and places the orders. The orders then go to the distributor, AmerisourceBergen, who ships the therapeutics directly to the sites. Pharmacy networks that are part of the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Therapeutics Program](#) do not participate in the state-coordinated process and instead place orders directly with the federal government.

Pharmacies interested in receiving the COVID-19 oral antivirals can contact Dr. Marcia Witte at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for more information (marcia.witte@dhw.idaho.gov).

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