

HEALTH ADVISORY



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road, Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



Jan. 25, 2022
10 a.m. ChST

CHCC-PR-22-008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COVID-19 therapeutics available in the CNMI

While vaccines are the best tool at fighting against COVID-19, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) has the following therapeutics, authorized under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), available to treat eligible patients who have mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

To reduce the risk of severe illness in patients with mild symptoms infected with the Delta variant:

- REGEN-COV – monoclonal antibody given intravenously (into your bloodstream) or subcutaneously (under your skin)
- Bamlanivimab and etesevimab – monoclonal antibody given intravenously

To reduce the risk of severe illness in patients with mild symptoms infected with the Delta or Omicron variant:

- Sotrovimab – monoclonal antibody given intravenously
- Veklury (remdesivir) – antiviral given intravenously, daily for 3 days
- Paxlovid – antiviral given orally
- Molnupiravir – antiviral given orally

Pre-exposure prophylaxis (a drug given to prevent disease or infection) in patients not yet infected, to reduce the risk of severe illness from the Delta or Omicron variant:

- Evusheld – long-acting monoclonal antibody given intramuscularly (into the muscle)

Treatment in the hospital for COVID-19 infection, Delta or Omicron variant:

- Remdesivir – antiviral given intravenously, daily for 5 days
- Tocilizumab – given intravenously
- Baricitinib – alternative to tocilizumab
- Sarilumab – alternative to tocilizumab

Veklury (remdesivir) is the first drug approved by the FDA to treat COVID-19, for use in adults and pediatric patients 12 years of age and older and weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds) requiring hospitalization. This approval does not include the entire population that had been authorized to use Veklury under EUA, which is not the same as approval.

FDA oversight of Veklury does not end with approval, and continued safety monitoring after approval is an important FDA duty for all the products that the agency regulates.

Evusheld is available as a treatment for individuals not yet infected (pre-exposure prophylaxis) with SARS-CoV-2 for the prevention of COVID-19. Evusheld can be given to adults and pediatric individuals 12 years of age and older, weighing at least 40 kilograms (about 88 pounds).

Seek care or test early if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, as you may be eligible for monoclonal antibodies or other new treatments that are given soon after infection.

Some patients may have conditions or take chronic medications that may make a particular treatment or procedure inadvisable (contraindications). Always consult with your medical provider for the best advice for your situation.

The CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. Unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness to other unvaccinated individuals.

Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

Individuals age 18 or older are now eligible to avail of a booster shot; 12- and 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Data from small clinical trials show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

To register for community-based testing, visit <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. No code is required to register. If there are no dates showing, it means all spots have been filled. More dates will be announced.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. [Live COVID-19 safe](#): wear your mask; wash your hands; watch your distance; avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces; cover coughs and sneezes; clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily; be alert for symptoms daily; and get tested for COVID-19.

For a complete list of the latest monoclonal antibody therapeutic products authorized under EUA by the FDA, visit [the FDA's website](#).

For more information about CHCC programs, follow @cnmichcc on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter; visit www.chcc.gov.mp; or call (670) 234-8950.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html>.