Paxlovid® Fact Sheet  
Information for Patients

Brand name: Paxlovid  
Generic name: nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir

Why has this medication been prescribed to me?  
You have been prescribed Paxlovid® because you have COVID-19, and your healthcare provider has  
determined that you might be at risk for severe symptoms from this infection.  
You are still considered to be contagious while you are taking your treatment.  Follow all isolation requirements  
that were given to you at the time of your positive COVID-19 test.

How does Paxlovid® help treat COVID-19?  
Paxlovid® prevents the virus that causes COVID-19 from copying itself, which helps prevent severe illness.  This  
medication helps prevent hospitalization or death due to COVID-19.

How should this medication be used?  
• Paxlovid® consists of two medications: nirmatrelvir and ritonavir.  
• Take two (2) pink tablets of nirmatrelvir with one (1) white tablet of ritonavir by mouth twice a day, in the  
  morning and at bedtime, for five (5) days.  Take all three (3) tablets at the same time.  
• If you have kidney disease your dose of nirmatrelvir may be decreased; your pharmacist will let you know.  
• You can take Paxlovid® with or without food.  Swallow capsules whole.  Do not open, break, or crush  
capsules.

What should I do if I forget a dose?  
• If it has been less than 8 hours since the missed dose, take the dose as soon as you remember.  
• If it has been more than 8 hours since the missed dose, skip this dose and take your dose at the next  
scheduled time.  
• Do not double the dose to make up for a missed dose.  
• Take all of your doses of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, even if you feel better.

What are some common side effects?  
Paxlovid® is generally well tolerated – most people experience mild side effects.  Rarely, Paxlovid® may cause  
liver problems, or resistance to HIV medications if you have untreated HIV infection.  
Some other reported side effects include:  
• Altered sense of taste  
• Diarrhea  
• High blood pressure  
• Muscle aches

Unwanted side effects are possible with all medications.  The effects listed are not all of the side effects that can occur.  
Speak with your healthcare provider if you have questions about side effects.
Who should not take Paxlovid®?
- Paxlovid® interacts with many medications and herbal supplements. You may experience serious side effects if you take Paxlovid® with these medications. Talk to your healthcare provider before taking Paxlovid® to find out how to manage possible interactions with your medication or herbal products.
- Paxlovid® is not recommended during pregnancy, because there is not enough information to know if it is safe for the unborn baby.
- Paxlovid® is not effective for treatment of severe COVID-19 infections, and should not be used for patients hospitalized because of COVID-19 symptoms.

What special precautions should I follow?
- Paxlovid® may decrease the effectiveness of combined hormonal contraceptives (birth control); use of a barrier method of contraception (condoms) or abstinence is recommended.
- Use a reliable method of contraception (condom, abstinence) during treatment with Paxlovid®.

How should I store Paxlovid® at home?
- Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Store at room temperature, away from excessive heat and moisture.

Should I get a COVID-19 vaccine even though I've been infected and received treatment?
Yes. Having COVID-19 infection and being treated does not offer the same protection as vaccination. It is possible to become sick again with COVID-19. The best way to prevent COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider to determine the best time to get your vaccine.

What should I do after I finish my treatment?
Treatment does not shorten your isolation time. You are still considered to be contagious while you are taking your treatment. Follow all Public Health guidelines for isolation. Information about isolation can be found at:

What should I do if my COVID-19 symptoms get worse?
Call Health Links-Info Santé 1-888-315-9257 (toll-free) or your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns.
Call 911 immediately if you experience severe symptoms of COVID-19, such as:
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe chest pain
- Feelings of disorientation or confusion
- Loss of consciousness

If you have any questions about this medication, call your pharmacist:
Pharmacy: ______________________________________  Phone number: ____________________________