

CLINICAL ADVISORY

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PharMerica

COVID-19 Rebound after Paxlovid Treatment

Issue

On 5/24/22, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) update on the potential for COVID-19 illness recurrence or “**COVID-19 rebound**” after Paxlovid treatment.

COVID-19 rebound: The brief return of COVID-19 symptoms or a new positive viral test *after* a recovering individual tests negative, reported to occur between 2 to 8 days after initial recovery.

This may be a natural progression of SARS-CoV-2 infection, independent of Paxlovid treatment / COVID-19 Vaccine history.

Based on current, limited case report information:

- **COVID-19 rebound illness is not considered reinfection with COVID-19 or resistance to Paxlovid.**
- **Illness recurrence and positive test results improve or resolve without additional treatment in about 3 days.**
- **There are no reports of severe disease among persons with COVID-19 rebound.**
- **Infection transmission during COVID-19 rebound is possible (although, relative likelihood of transmission potential during rebound period compared to initial infection period remains unknown).**

Healthcare Providers

Paxlovid is *still* recommended for early-stage (within 5 days of symptom onset) treatment of viral-testing confirmed, mild to moderate COVID-19 in adult and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40kg), who are at high risk for progression to severe disease, including hospitalization and death (See [EUA](#) for full prescribing info).

For patients with COVID-19 rebound:

- Currently, no evidence suggests additional treatment for illness recurrence.
- Continue patient monitoring for potential COVID-19 rebound, even after a full treatment course of Paxlovid.
- Provide additional clinical evaluation in patients whose COVID-19 rebound symptoms persist or worsen.
- Report cases of COVID-19 rebound after Paxlovid treatment to Pfizer using the online tool: [Pfizer Safety Reporting](#)
- Advise patients with COVID-19 rebound to follow [CDC guidelines for isolation](#) to prevent further spread.

Residents/Caregivers

Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccination to lower risk of serious COVID-19 outcomes such as hospitalization and death.

In light of COVID-19 rebound potential, take precautions to prevent further spread during the post-recovery time period.

Per CDC guidance, if COVID-19 illness recurs:

- Restart isolation (regardless of previous isolation after initial infection) and isolate again for ≥ 5 days.
 - Only end re-isolation after 5 full days if fever has resolved for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and with symptom improvement.
 - Wear a mask for a total of 10 days after rebound symptoms started.

PharMerica Continues to Provide Support

PharMerica continues to support facilitating access to currently authorized COVID-19 therapies, including Paxlovid. Please reach out to your servicing Pharmacy and/or Account Manager for further information.

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