COVID oral antiviral dispensing—follow-up
Oral antiviral access point selection

Alberta Health has completed the first round of pharmacy selection for dispensing COVID oral antiviral drugs. Health Canada approved the first of these drugs, nirmatrelvir/ritonavir [Paxlovid™ (Pfizer)], on January 17, 2022. Paxlovid™ will be available to eligible Albertans with a positive COVID-19 PCR test starting on January 31.

With the initial expression of interest, more than 900 sites responded from across the province. Given the very limited initial supply, approximately 135 pharmacies have been selected to provide access across the province. Selected pharmacy sites were notified with further information on next steps.

As the supply of COVID oral antivirals increases, opportunities to add more pharmacies will become available. Alberta Health will provide further communications to pharmacies as information on supply evolves.

Criteria used for pharmacy selection

Sites were selected from submissions based on the following criteria from the EOI:

- Open seven days a week where possible (or have pharmacist publicly on call on days the pharmacy is closed).
- Offer two or more no-contact dispensing options such as
    - delivery when required;
    - curbside pick-up and/or drive thru; and/or
    - mail-order where appropriately licensed by the Alberta College of Pharmacy.
- Committed to strict inventory management processes to ensure product is always on hand and ready to be dispensed.
- Committed to daily inventory and utilization reporting.

In addition, where more than one pharmacy expressed interest in a given local geographic area, additional criteria were applied, including

- regular use of AVI and AVBS systems demonstrating inventory control commitment,
- location within the local geographic area, and
- hours of operation.

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®

Paxlovid™ information session

Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services will hold a joint information session regarding the roll-out of Paxlovid™ through community pharmacies. While all pharmacies are welcome to join this session, the targeted audience are pharmacies who have been selected to dispense Paxlovid™ effective January 31, 2022.

When: January 27, 2022, 7 p.m. in Edmonton

Link to join the session:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84815369927?pwd=akpjQTNnN0RTZmNVUHZvZkJ5U3ozUT09

Passcode: 893013

One-tap mobile number:

Canada: +17789072071,,84815369927#,,,,*893013# or
+15873281099,,84815369927#,,,,*893013#

Phone numbers:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
Canada: +1-778-907-2071 or +1-587-328-1099 or 855-703-8985 (toll free)
US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 267 831 0333

Webinar ID: 848 1536 9927

Passcode: 893013

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)
1-800-361-9632 (toll free)
FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)
FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit **ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php**