



Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for COVID-19

Monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment is for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are not sick enough to be in the hospital. mAb treatment can lower the amount of virus in your body, reduce symptoms and help avoid a trip to the hospital. **mAb treatment is most effective when received soon after COVID-19 symptoms begin, so it is important to get tested right away.**

What are mAbs?

mAbs are antibodies (proteins your body makes to fight infection) made in a lab that work similarly to antibodies your immune system makes. mAb treatment helps your body fight off COVID-19 while your immune system begins to make its own antibodies.

Is mAb treatment safe?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized mAb treatments for emergency use. In clinical studies, the treatments were shown to be safe. The FDA continues to monitor the treatments for safety and effectiveness.

Is mAb treatment right for me?

mAb treatment is authorized for **people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and had mild to moderate symptoms for 10 days or less.** To receive mAb treatment, you must be age 12 or older, weigh at least 88 pounds (40 kilograms) and meet one of the following criteria:

Criteria for Adults Age 18 and Older	Criteria for Children Ages 12 to 17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or greater • Have chronic kidney disease • Have type 1 or 2 diabetes mellitus • Have a long-term lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or emphysema) • Have a condition that weakens the immune system • Take medicine that weakens the immune system • Be between ages 55 and 64, and have heart disease or high blood pressure • Be age 65 or older 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a BMI greater than or equal to 85% of patients of the same age and gender, based on growth charts by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (available at cdc.gov/growthcharts/cdc_charts.htm) • Have sickle cell disease • Have heart disease • Have asthma or another long-term airway or lung disease (such as cystic fibrosis) that requires daily medication • Have cerebral palsy or another neurodevelopmental condition • Depend on a medical-related technology, such as a tracheostomy, gastrostomy or positive pressure ventilation (not related to COVID-19)

If you are not sure whether you are eligible, talk to your health care provider.

How is mAb treatment given?

mAb treatment is given by intravenous (IV) infusion. Treatment takes about an hour and then you will be observed for an additional hour to make sure you do not have any immediate bad reactions.

What are the side effects?

Allergic reactions are very rare but can occur during or after IV infusion. Side effects of mAb treatment may include:

- A reaction at the site of the IV, including pain, swelling, bleeding, bruising or an infection
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Itching, rash or hives

Other side effects may be identified as studies of this treatment continue. If you experience new or worsening symptoms after IV infusion, including fever, trouble breathing, rapid or slow heart rate, tiredness, weakness or confusion, contact your provider right away. Call **911** or go to the closest emergency department if your symptoms become severe or worsen.

Where can I get mAb treatment?

Talk to your provider about whether you should get and how to schedule mAb treatment. Visit [hitesite.org/monoclonalantibody](https://nyc.gov/hitesite.org/monoclonalantibody) to find a treatment location. You can also talk to an NYC Health + Hospitals doctor by visiting [expresscare.nyc](https://www.expresscare.nyc) and clicking “Talk to a Doctor Now,” or calling 212-COVID19 (212-268-4319).

How much does mAb treatment cost?

mAb treatment is covered by Medicaid and Medicare plans at no cost. If you have private insurance, check with the treating facility and your health plan about costs. NYC Health + Hospitals provides treatment and care regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.

Can I still get a COVID-19 vaccine after receiving mAb treatment?

Yes, but you should wait 90 days after mAb treatment before getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

Can I still get mAb treatment if I already got a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and test positive, you can receive mAb treatment.

What if I have not been tested for COVID-19?

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, or loss of sense of taste or smell, or are otherwise feeling unwell, get tested right away. Visit nyc.gov/covidtest to find a testing site near you.

How can I learn more about treatments for COVID-19?

You can learn about different COVID-19 treatment options by visiting combatcovid.hhs.gov or infusioncenter.org.

