



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

COVID-19 Therapeutics Access | Long Term Care Facilities

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Background

Most deaths from COVID-19 in Marin County have been in residents of long-term care facilities. The current surge in viral transmission across the region and rising cases in facilities could lead to increased mortality.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized emergency use of oral antiviral medications for COVID-19. Older adults (> 60 years old) with [underlying medical conditions](#) and residents of long-term care facilities (LTCF) have had the highest risk of poor outcomes. Marin County Public Health estimates that at least half of long-term care facility residents who are infected with COVID-19 would be candidates for Paxlovid, a medication that can reduce risk of hospitalization and death by 90 percent. Timely access to therapeutics in long-term care facilities is critical to achieving the goal of zero preventable COVID deaths in Marin.

LTCF residents newly diagnosed with COVID-19 should have a prompt medical evaluation to determine if COVID-19 treatment aligns with their goals of care.

Actions Requested of Facility Administrators

1. Learn more about COVID-19 [treatment options](#). Share this resource with patients / residents and their families and/or guardians.
2. Notify patient / resident, family and/or guardian (as appropriate) of new COVID diagnosis.
 - a. Implement isolation protocol immediately.
3. Report a confirmed COVID case by completing confidential form: <https://marincountyhc.jotform.com/212436821635151>.
4. Advise patient / resident, family and/or guardian (as appropriate) that Marin County Public Health recommends a medical evaluation for COVID treatment for all symptomatic COVID patients. COVID treatment plan should align with the patient's goals of care.
5. Assist patient / resident in scheduling an appointment with the primary care provider as soon as possible, including virtual evaluation (no more than 1 day after a positive COVID test).
6. Ensure updated copies of patient's advance health directives, including [POLST](#) form, are on file.