



## 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19]

phd3.idaho.gov/covid19

### FAQ: Ivermectin in Treatment of COVID-19

#### What is ivermectin?

Ivermectin is an FDA approved antiparasitic drug used to treat tropical diseases caused by parasites; it is not approved to be used for infections caused by viruses.

A cream form is used to treat minor conditions such as lice or rosacea whereas tablets are primarily used to combat parasitic worms.

Ivermectin is used in the same way to treat animals but with products that can be extremely dangerous if used by humans.

#### Can ivermectin be used to treat COVID-19?

The FDA has not authorized or approved ivermectin for use in preventing or treating COVID-19 in humans or animals.

Clinical trials assessing ivermectin tablets for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 in people are ongoing. Information about ongoing COVID-19 related clinical trials can be found at <https://covid19.nih.gov/treatments-and-vaccines/clinical-trials>.

Current studies that have been conducted on the treatment of COVID-19 have been small and open to a lot of interpretation and variability, making the results unreliable.

As of September 2021, the FDA and National Library of Medicine have not released any reliable studies that support ivermectin to be used to treat COVID-19.

#### What are the risks involved in using ivermectin?

Products that have ivermectin may be dangerous if not used as intended and can interact with other medications.

Using ivermectin while pregnant without a doctor's approval can cause birth defects.

The risk of overdosing with Ivermectin is very real as well, which can result in nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, allergic reactions, dizziness, ataxia, seizures, coma and death.

Products intended for animals, such as horses, livestock, and pets, contain large doses of ivermectin and ingredients that have not yet been tested for humans. These products can cause overdose and should not be used to treat or prevent COVID-19. Misuse of these products could result in hospitalization. With many Idaho hospitals currently in Crisis Standards of care finding medical care may be challenging.

*This document was created 09/30/2021 using information and guidance available to-date and is subject to change per emerging guidance.*



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### What are the current approved treatment options for COVID-19?

The current available therapies and links to useful resources are outlined below:

- The FDA has approved the antiviral drug Veklury (remdesivir) for adults and certain pediatric patients with COVID-19 who are sick enough to need hospitalization. Veklury should only be administered in a hospital or in a health care setting.
- Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made molecules that act as substitute antibodies. They can help your immune system recognize and respond more effectively to the virus, making it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm. FDA has issued [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for several monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19 for the treatment of mild or moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients ages 12 and older who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.
- Post exposure prophylaxis: FDA has issued EUA for a monoclonal antibody product [REGEN-COV](#) for use as post-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19 in individuals who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. However, this product is not a substitute for vaccination against COVID-19.

Depending on your medical history, risks, and symptoms, your health care provider can help you determine whether a therapy that is FDA-approved, or available under an EUA, is right for you.

The following websites contain information regarding access to monoclonal antibody treatments for COVID-19:

- [HHS Protect Public Data Hub – Therapeutics Distribution](#)
- [National Infusion Center Association \(NICA\)](#)

Therapeutic products authorized under an EUA are listed on the FDA's [EUA page](#).

To check whether a drug is approved by FDA, search the database of approved drugs by visiting the [Drugs@FDA database](#).

Sources:

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/dangers-using-hydroxychloroquine-ivermectin-preventing-or-treating-covid-19>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34318930/>

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