

## Treatment of COVID-19

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the only medication to prevent infection. There is no other drug or medication that is effective and approved to prevent you from getting COVID-19.

These are the only medications that have been shown to be safe and effective and have either approval or emergency use authorization (EUA) for treating SARS CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19:

### Medications used in the hospital:

**Remdesivir:** This is the only drug with full FDA approval to treat COVID-19. It is given by vein (IV-intravenous) to patients in the hospital who need to be on oxygen, but not on a breathing machine (ventilator).

**Dexamethasone:** This a steroid can be used alone or in combination with Remdesivir. Although usually given by IV, it can be used by mouth for patients discharged from the emergency department who meet certain criteria.

**Baricitinib:** This drug is used for arthritis and blocks the immune system from overreacting to an infection. It is given in the hospital by IV to patients who have need for increasing oxygen and showing signs of systemic (whole body) inflammation.

**Tocilizumab:** This drug is used like baricitinib above.

### Medications used in the outpatient (not in hospital) setting:

**Casirivimab plus imdevimab:** This monoclonal antibody medication is given to high-risk people who have been exposed or infected with COVID-19. It is given by IV or injection. It can prevent them from becoming very ill or going to the hospital.

**Sotrovimab:** This is also a monoclonal antibody and is used only for infected high-risk patients.

The list above are the only medications that have been shown to be safe and effective and to have either approval or emergency use authorization (EUA) for treating SARS CoV2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The following drugs **have not been shown to be effective** in treating COVID-19. None of them are approved or have EUA for treating COVID-19:

Ivermectin (there have been many nationwide reports of side effects and calls to poison control centers related to the use of this drug in adults and children who accidentally take it)

Hydroxychloroquine

Azithromycin

Doxycycline

### References:

<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/science/coronavirus-drugs-treatments.html>