COVID-19 FYI

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
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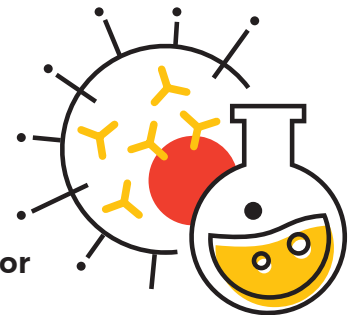
Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

TREATING COVID-19: *Monoclonal Antibody Treatment*

IS THERE A TREATMENT FOR COVID-19?

There is a treatment for COVID-19. It is called "monoclonal antibody treatment." That is a name with medical words that can be hard to understand. The information below explains what it means and who it is for.

WHAT IS MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

When you are sick, your body makes "antibodies" to fight the illness. Monoclonal antibodies are antibodies that are made in a lab. They are given to people through a needle. The antibodies made in the lab work just like antibodies your body makes. They are the extra help your body needs to fight COVID-19. **If you test positive for COVID-19, ask your doctor right away if monoclonal antibody treatment is for you.**

IS MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT A CURE FOR COVID-19?

No, it is not a cure for COVID-19. But it is an important treatment for people who get sick with COVID-19. It can keep you from getting very sick from COVID-19 and help keep you out of the hospital.

DO I GET MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT INSTEAD OF COVID-19 SHOTS?

No! This treatment is not in place of COVID-19 shots. It is very important to get your shots to protect yourself from COVID-19.

DOES MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT WORK?

Medical studies have taught us **fewer people get very sick from COVID-19 because of monoclonal antibody treatment**. And fewer people go to emergency rooms or are admitted to hospitals.

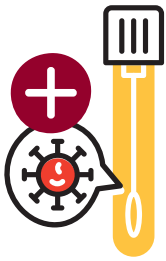### ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS FROM MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

Discuss this with your doctor. The most common side effects are nausea and vomiting. Other side effects may be: diarrhea, dizziness, headache, itchiness, high blood sugar, pneumonia, and allergic reaction. You may also have brief pain, bleeding, bruising, soreness, swelling and infection where you get the needle.

HOW CAN I GET MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

Your doctor can tell you if monoclonal antibody treatment is right for you and send you for treatment. Talk to your doctor right away if:

· You test positive for COVID-19, or
· You learn that you have been around someone that has COVID-19.

WHO CAN GET MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

If you **HAVE** tested positive for COVID-19 —
Monoclonal antibody treatment can be used with people 12 and older who:

- **Tested positive for COVID-19.** A positive test means you have COVID-19. This includes people who have had their COVID-19 shots,
- **Have mild to moderate symptoms (signs) of COVID-19 for 10 days or less,**

- **Do not need to be hospitalized for COVID-19 treatment,** AND
- **Are in a "high-risk" group**. Being high risk means that if you get COVID-19, you could get very sick, end up in the hospital, or even die. If you are not sure if you are high risk, ask your doctor.

You are at high risk if:

- You are 65 years old or older. You do not need to have any other health problems.
- You are age 55 to 64 AND have: cardiovascular disease, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), or another ongoing respiratory disease.
- You are 12-17 years old AND have: neurodevelopmental disorders, obesity, heart disease, sickle cell disease, asthma, or another chronic respiratory disease.
- You are 12-17 years old and depend on technology for a medical condition. Some examples of technology are feeding tubes, catheters, and tracheostomies.
- You are any age and have diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, or another serious ongoing conditions.
- You are pregnant.
- Your doctor says there is a high risk you will get sicker or be admitted to the hospital if you do not get treatment.

If you **HAVE NOT** tested positive for COVID-19 —
You may be able to get monoclonal antibody treatment to prevent COVID-19 if:

- **You have been around someone in the past 4 days who has COVID-19,**
- **You have a serious medical condition,** AND
- **At least one of these things is true:**
  - You are not fully vaccinated. This means you haven't gotten all of your regular COVID-19 shots.
  - You are fully vaccinated, but your doctor does not think your body will do a good job fighting COVID-19.
  - You live with a lot of other people. Examples are nursing homes, psychiatric hospitals, and state residential centers (Holly and Potomac Centers).
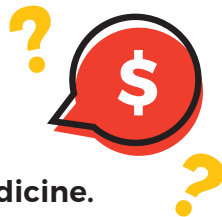
WHAT IF I DO NOT HAVE A DOCTOR?

If you do not have a doctor or would like to refer yourself for treatment, you can:

· Call FirstCall Medical Center at 443-459-1095. *Open Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.*
· Call the monoclonal antibody call center at 410-649-6122. *Open Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m.*
· Set up a video call with a doctor here: www.medstarhealth.org/services/telehealth/evisit, or
· Fill out the form at this website link and someone will contact you: tinyurl.com/yc367h9t.

They will tell you where to go for treatment if it is right for you. Dozens of places provide monoclonal antibody treatment in Maryland.

DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT?

You do not have to pay for the medicine. But there may be fees for giving you the treatment. Your insurance may pay these fees. Check with your insurance company.

TO GET HELP AND MORE INFORMATION

TO GET HELP:
Call the GoVax support center, or have someone call for you: 855-MD-GoVAX (855-634-6829)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENT:
Use the QR code below (point your phone's camera at the code square and follow the instructions on your screen), or visit this website:
https://covidlink.maryland.gov/content/faqs/#faqMA

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