

Communication to patients regarding COVID-19 treatments

**** New information regarding COVID-19 treatments available for patients at risk ****

We now have treatments available for patients that may be at high risk for COVID-19 complications. The treatments include monoclonal antibodies (given by intravenous infusion) and Paxlovid (oral medication). For individuals at high risk, these treatments can reduce your risk of severe infection that can lead to hospitalization and death.

If you are over the age of 18, and you develop symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 infection (one of fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste/smell; or 2 of sore throat, headache, feeling very tired, runny nose/nasal congestion, muscle aches/joint pain or nausea/vomiting/diarrhea), it is important you contact our office for a same day phone appointment or book an appointment at the COVID-19 Clinical Assessment Center at Markham Stouffville Hospital (<https://www.oakvalleyhealth.ca/clinics-departments/clinical-assessment-centre#assessment>) as soon as possible.

Studies have shown that for these treatments to be effective, one must seek care within 7 days of the onset of your symptoms. Many people with mild symptoms delay seeking care and miss the opportunity to reduce their risk of complications and hospitalization caused by COVID-19. Given the supply of these treatments are limited, during your assessment the clinical provider will also determine your eligibility for treatment based on your vaccination status and health risk factors. You will also be tested to confirm infection with COVID-19.

Even if you do not end up meeting criteria for these above treatments, please follow up with us. Our FHT has a COVID At Home program where we monitor patients remotely who have been infected with COVID-19. If you are concerned about your symptoms, we are happy to speak with you and arrange for you to be assessed in the office if needed.