




Paxlovid for COVID-19

You have been given a medicine for COVID-19. It is called Paxlovid. This medicine can stop you from getting very sick or needing to go to hospital. This factsheet explains the medicine and how to use it.

What do I need to know?

Brand name	Paxlovid (<i>pax-low-vid</i>)
Active ingredients	Nirmatrelvir + ritonavir (<i>ner-mah-trell-veer + ree-toe-nah-veer</i>)
What kind is it?	2 different tablets that you swallow. The nirmatrelvir tablet is pink and the ritonavir tablet is white. 
When do I take it?	Take in the morning and at night.
How long do I take it?	Take it for 5 days in a row. Keep taking it until you finish all the tablets you are given, even if you feel better before 5 days.
How do I take it?	Take the medicine exactly as your doctor tells you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Swallow whole. Drink water to help swallow each tablet. ✓ Don't chew, break or crush the capsule. ✓ You can take it before or after a meal.
Remember	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do not share it with other people. ▶ Keep the capsules in their container or dosing box from the pharmacist. ▶ Keep them in a safe place, away from children.

My medicine calendar

Doctor to write how many nirmatrelvir (pink) tablets	Day 1 Date:	Day 2 Date:	Day 3 Date:	Day 4 Date:	Day 5 Date:
 pink tablets 1 white tablet. Same time every morning					
 pink tablets 1 white tablet. Same time every night					

Tick the box when you have taken the medicine to help you keep track.

If I feel unwell I should contact

Name:

Number:

Address:

Email:

How can it help?

In research, people given this medicine were more likely to feel better than those who did not take it. The medicine stopped some people who had COVID-19 from getting very sick and needing to go to hospital.

The medicine works best if you start taking it as soon as possible after finding out you have COVID-19. Ideally within five days of first noticing signs of sickness.

Is it safe to take?

We are still learning about this medicine, but it seems to be safe and likely to help when you have COVID-19.

We don't know yet if this medicine is safe during pregnancy. Make sure you tell your doctor if you're pregnant, breastfeeding or could be pregnant.

If you can become pregnant, use contraception while taking the medicine and for 7 days after taking the last tablet. Talk to your doctor about what contraception to use as this medicine can stop some from working.



Paxlovid can stop many other medicines working as they should. Tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or have recently taken. This includes medicines, vitamins and natural medicines you can buy without a prescription from your pharmacy or supermarket.

Are there unwanted effects (side effects)?

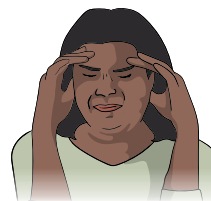
If you take Paxlovid you might notice:



**Food or drink
taste different**



**Loose or runny
poo (diarrhoea)**



Headache



**Throwing up
(vomiting)**

Some people may have these symptoms because of the medicine or from COVID-19.

Tell your doctor, health worker or pharmacist if you feel unwell, or if your symptoms get worse after taking the medicine.

Where can I find out more?

- ▶ Call the NPS Medicines Line on **1300 633 424**
- ▶ Talk to your doctor, nurse, pharmacist or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker or Practitioner

nps.org.au

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