

# What to expect during a COVID-19 antibody treatment



Antibody treatment is a one-time treatment given by either an injection or infusion for people recently diagnosed with COVID-19 who are at high risk to get very sick from COVID-19 because of age or certain health conditions. It should be administered soon after symptom onset.

In this easy-to-read guide, you'll learn what to expect before, during, and after treatment.

## ? How do COVID-19 antibody treatments work?<sup>1</sup>

When you have a virus, like the virus that causes COVID-19, it takes time for your body to learn to make antibodies to fight it — and in the meantime, you could get very sick, or even die.

Antibody treatments give you antibodies that may start working more quickly to help your body fight the virus. Antibody treatments don't have any virus in them, so you can't get COVID-19 from the treatment.

## ? What are the side effects?<sup>1</sup>

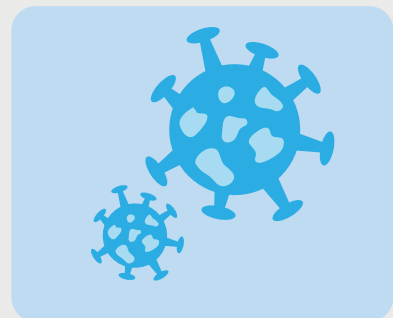
Side effects can range from mild to serious. Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you have any of these side effects during or after your treatment, as they may be signs of a serious or life-threatening allergic reaction:

- Fever, chills, headache, or muscle aches
- Nausea (upset stomach)
- Wheezing or shortness of breath (trouble breathing)
- Dizziness or low blood pressure
- Itching, rash, or hives
- Swollen lips, face, or throat
- Feeling weak, confused, or tired

These are not all the possible side effects of antibody treatments. Serious and unexpected side effects may happen.

It's possible that an antibody treatment could make it harder for your body to fight off a future COVID-19 infection, and it could make a future COVID-19 vaccine less effective for you. Scientists haven't done specific studies to address these possible risks. COVID-19 antibody treatments are still being studied and not all side effects are known at this time.

After antibody treatment, some people had new or worsening COVID-19 symptoms — including fever, trouble breathing, fast or slow heartbeat, or feeling weak, confused, or tired. Some people had to go to the hospital because of these serious symptoms. Scientists can't be sure if the treatment caused the serious symptoms or if they happened because of COVID-19.



Getting any medicine by injection or infusion may cause pain, bleeding, bruising, soreness, swelling, or infection in the place where the needle went in.



If you have any new symptoms or side effects during or after your treatment, tell your doctor right away. You can also report side effects at [fda.gov/medwatch](https://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

### ? What is it like to get an antibody treatment?<sup>1</sup>

When you get to the clinic, a nurse will show you to a chair where you can sit comfortably. The nurse will clean your arm with a special liquid that kills germs. Then they'll insert a small needle into a vein and start the flow of medicine.

You may feel a pinch or sting when the needle first goes in, but the feeling often goes away after a few seconds. If you feel any pain during the treatment, tell the nurse right away. After the treatment, you'll need to stay for about an hour so the nurse can make sure you're feeling okay.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask the clinic staff. It's their job to explain what's happening and make sure you feel comfortable.

### ? How can I find an antibody treatment?

All COVID-19 antibody treatments require a prescription from your doctor. Working with your doctor, visit the COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator at [covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com](https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com) to find an antibody treatment.

### ? What happens after my appointment?<sup>1</sup>

Your doctor or the clinic staff will keep checking with you to see how you feel and which COVID-19 symptoms you have. Even after treatment, you could still pass COVID-19 to other people. It's important to stay away from other people for as long as your doctor tells you to.

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#### Reference:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [combatcovid.hhs.gov/what-are-monoclonal-antibodies](https://www.combatcovid.hhs.gov/what-are-monoclonal-antibodies)