



Questions and Answers

What are monoclonal antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies may be used in early treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 illness in unvaccinated patients who are deemed at-risk for progression to severe illness that would require hospitalization. This treatment uses laboratory-made antibodies (proteins) and is intended to give those with no prior antibodies to COVID-19 an initial immune response that may prevent serious illness. It may also be helpful in preventing severe COVID-19 illness in people with weakened immune systems who may not generate a robust response to the COVID-19 vaccines. This treatment is only effective in the very early phase of infection.

Who can receive monoclonal antibody therapy?

This treatment may be prescribed by a physician for patients who meet the following criteria:

- For COVID-19 patients who have not been vaccinated; or immunocompromised COVID-19 patients regardless of vaccination status AND
- Within seven days of becoming symptomatic AND
- 55 years or older, or 18 years and older with specific high risk co-morbidity

How does a person access monoclonal antibody therapy?

Patients who test positive on a rapid antigen test or a PCR test and believe they are eligible for monoclonal antibodies should call 811 (available 24 hours, 7 days a week) for additional screening and to be referred appropriately. Patients can also call 306-766-6388 between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm, 7 days a week and ask to speak with a clinician regarding monoclonal antibodies.

Where is monoclonal antibody therapy available?

This treatment is available at more than a dozen sites across the province. Eligible patients will be referred to the site closest or most convenient to them.

So if I'm treated for COVID with monoclonal antibodies, should I still get vaccinated?

Yes! Contracting and being treated for COVID-19 does not offer an equivalent protection to vaccination. Vaccination clinic information is available at saskatchewan.ca/covid-19. All patients receiving monoclonal antibodies will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination 90 days following treatment.

Why is this being offered now?

Health Canada has granted interim approvals for the use of several types of monoclonal antibodies in the early treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in unvaccinated patients who are at risk of progression to severe COVID-19 that would require hospitalization because of age and/or co-morbidities. The hope is that this treatment will an additional way to help reduce the demand for hospital resources.