



## Mendocino County Public Health Department

*Healthy People, Healthy Communities*

**Dr. Andrew Coren, County Health Officer**



# Press Release

*Not for op-ed*

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**TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA**

**FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**

Increasing the awareness and access of COVID-19 oral treatments for individuals at elevated risk is a priority for the County now that the Omicron surge has subsided. These free medications can help prevent serious illness, hospitalization, or death, and are important for residents at elevated risk of severe COVID.

Paxlovid (available for anyone 12 and older weighing more than 88 lbs) is an oral treatment that must be taken within 5 days of the first COVID symptoms and requires a prescription from a healthcare provider. These treatments are for people at higher risk for severe COVID (not fully vaccinated, immunocompromised, underlying health conditions such as diabetes and obesity). Public Health is working with local partners and providers to inform patients about Paxlovid.

“It’s important to get tested as soon as you feel any COVID-like symptoms,” explained Mendocino County Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren. “If you test positive, get in touch with your provider and get a prescription as early as possible. These treatments are very effective at preventing severe COVID for those at higher risk.”

Residents who would like to access these medicines or have questions on which treatment is right for them should contact their doctor or call the COVID-19 information line at 707-472-2759, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm on weekdays.

A wide range of information and data dashboards on COVID-19 from Mendocino County Public Health are available at: [www.mendocinocounty.org/covid-19](http://www.mendocinocounty.org/covid-19)