

NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT
COVID-19 Therapeutics Update: Bebtelovimab & Evusheld Pause
November 18, 2022

Background

COVID-19 therapeutics are important tools to decrease morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19 disease. The efficacy of COVID-19 therapeutics is dependent on circulating variants. Bebtelovimab and Evusheld have been found to have substantially decreased in vitro activity against the currently circulating variants.

The purpose of this communication is to notify providers that Bebtelovimab and Evusheld should no longer be utilized in New Mexico. Paxlovid, remdesivir, and molnupiravir retain activity against the currently circulating variants.

Bebtelovimab: Recommendation against the use of Bebtelovimab for treatment of COVID-19

According to the NIH Treatment Guidelines Panel, the subvariants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 are likely to be resistant to bebtelovimab. The FDA has revoked the authorization for treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in geographic regions where infection is likely to be caused by resistant variants.¹

The CDC Nowcast is a model that estimates more recent proportions of circulating variants and enables timely public health action. According to the [CDC Nowcast](#), HHS region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) is now estimated to have 46.3% of cases attributed to resistant subvariants. The previous week, HHS Region 6 was estimated to have 26.6% of cases attributed to resistant subvariants.² Due to the high proportion of resistant subvariants and the rapid increase in their prevalence, New Mexico Department of Health is recommending against the use of Bebtelovimab as a treatment for COVID-19.

All providers should immediately cease offering bebtelovimab as a treatment for COVID-19. Providers should not discard unused doses of bebtelovimab. It should be quarantined under proper storage conditions in the event it may be used against future variants.

Evusheld: Recommendation against the use of Evusheld as prophylaxis for COVID-19

According to the NIH Treatment Guidelines Panel, the subvariants BA.4.6, BA.2.75.2, BA.5.2.6, BF.7, BQ.1, and BQ.1.1 are likely to be resistant to Evusheld. The NIH treatment panel recommends consideration of the proportion of circulating resistant variants prior to the use of Evusheld.¹ According to the [CDC Nowcast](#), HHS Region 6 is now estimated to have 56.1% of cases attributed to resistant subvariants. In the previous week, HHS Region 6 was estimated to have 46% of cases attributed to resistant subvariants.² Due to the resistance of the majority of circulating variants to Evusheld, New Mexico Department of Health is recommending against the use of Evusheld as prophylaxis for COVID-19.

All providers should immediately cease offering Evusheld as prophylaxis for COVID-19. Providers should not discard unused doses of Evusheld. It should be quarantined under proper storage conditions in the event it may be used against future variants.

1. Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults With COVID-19. www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov
2. CDC Nowcast. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions>

Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid), Remdesivir (Veklury), and Molnupiravir (Lagevrio) Retain Activity against Emerging Variants

Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid), Remdesivir (Veklury), and Molnupiravir (Lagevrio) all retain activity against the currently circulating variants and are expected to retain activity against emerging variants.¹

NMDOH recommends providers to continue to recommend Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid), Remdesivir (Veklury), and Molnupiravir (Lagevrio) for patients in high-risk groups who test positive for COVID and qualify for treatment. For information about available outpatient COVID-19 treatment options, please visit [COVID-19 Oral Treatments for Providers | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/covid-19-oral-treatments-for-providers).

Resources

[COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)

[NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#)

Additional Information

Vaccination against COVID-19 remains the best strategy to prevent severe COVID-19 disease and hospitalization. Talk to your patients about receiving a COVID-19 booster. Vaccine appointments can be found at vaccinenm.org or vaccines.gov.

For questions, please contact the New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19 Therapeutics Team at covid.thereaputics@state.nm.us

Information on the authorized products for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus and other authorized products for treatment or prevention of COVID 19 are available on FDA's [Emergency Use Authorization Drugs and Non-Vaccine Biological Products webpage](#)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.