Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System

NHS
Hertfordshire and West Essex
Integrated Care Board

Information for care homes and supported living - Reminder of access to COVID-19 treatment for eligible patients in Hertfordshire and West Essex

Information including eligibility (see summary in Appendix 1 below), how residents can access lateral flow tests and the local pathway is available at COVID-19 medicines (CMDU) - Herts and West Essex ICS. Further information for clinicians is available at COVID-19 treatments: Information for clinicians.

In summary, the pathway for community access to COVID-19 treatment is as follows:

Call 111 (not the GP Practice) urgently for an assessment for COVID-19 treatment if an eligible resident has a positive test as recommended treatments need to be started within 5 days of onset of symptoms. 111 will determine which treatment, if any, is suitable, and make any necessary arrangements for prescribing oral treatments for dispensing at a community pharmacy. You will need to contact the community pharmacy to confirm supply arrangements.

Please ensure you have access to lateral flow tests to support testing eligible residents, advise eligible residents of their eligibility for COVID treatments and support residents with the actions to take if they have a positive test – see COVID-19 medicines (CMDU) - Herts and West Essex ICS for further information. **Please work with your linked GP Practice to understand who in your setting is eligible for COVID treatments and ensure this is recorded in their care plan.**

Eligible residents should have access to lateral flow test kits so they can get tested quickly if they have any coronavirus symptoms. They will not be automatically sent tests, but these can be requested from community pharmacies that are registered to provide this service. You can find out if a pharmacy near you is offering free tests using the Find a pharmacy that offers free COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - NHS service.

Appendix 1: Who is eligible

Higher risk patient groups at increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19 eligible for treatment, in summary for adults:

- Down's syndrome, or another chromosomal condition that affects immune system
- certain types of solid cancer, or had treatment for certain types of cancer
- sickle cell disease
- certain conditions affecting blood, including some types of blood cancer and some patients that have had haematological stem cell transplant
- chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage 4 or 5, including people on dialysis
- severe liver disease
- organ transplant
- certain autoimmune or inflammatory conditions and treatments
- HIV or AIDS and have a weakened immune system
- condition affecting immune system
- condition affecting the brain or nervous system, such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, motor neurone disease, myasthenia gravis, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease or certain types of dementia

- certain lung conditions or treatments for lung conditions

This list is a summary and does not cover everything. Find out more about people at the highest risk who are eligible for COVID-19 treatment on the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) website. If unsure about eligibility speak to a healthcare professional.

October 2025 v1.2