

Information for Patients: Treatment of COVID-19 at Cleveland Clinic

When you or your loved one is sick with COVID-19, it can be a stressful and frightening experience. We want to help by providing information on what you may expect when you or your loved one receives care at Cleveland Clinic.

- Cleveland Clinic is committed to adhering to science-based treatments. Scientific studies regarding all emerging medical treatments for COVID-19 are regularly reviewed by a diverse group of healthcare experts and Cleveland Clinic enterprise-wide committees before being accepted as standard of care for patients with COVID-related illnesses. These experts and committees review data about safety and effectiveness to provide you with the best possible medical care.
- We are only giving medications approved by our Cleveland Clinic expert committees for which there is scientific evidence of safety and efficacy. We are not giving medications that are not approved by our committees. Alternative regimens without proven benefit will not be considered.
- It is important to us that you understand your treatment plan. While providing clear and supportive communication with you and your loved ones is very important to us, engaging in lengthy discussions about alternatives to science-based treatments is not practical as we must focus on providing excellent medical care for all of our patients. Please know that our clinicians are committed to providing you or your loved one the highest quality of care using medications for which there is the best evidence of effectiveness and safety.
- Cleveland Clinic participates in scientific studies. If you are interested in participating in a study and you qualify, our research team may discuss this possibility with you. You may choose not to participate in these studies.
- Cleveland Clinic does not control what other hospital systems offer, and you have the option to seek care elsewhere should you not want to receive the type of medical care practiced here.

Frequently asked questions:

Do you give Ivermectin? No. We do not use ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19, as the data on ivermectin for treatment of COVID-19 do not show that ivermectin is effective or safe in the treatment of COVID-19. Ivermectin is not approved by the FDA for use in the treatment of COVID-19.

Do you give hydroxychloroquine? No. Studies have shown no reduce risk of death or clinical benefits, but have shown safety risks of using the medicine. Hydroxychloroquine is not approved by the FDA for use in the treatment of COVID-19.

Is Remdesivir sometimes used, and why? Yes. The FDA has approved the antiviral Remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19 pneumonia, as it has been shown to shorten the recovery time needed in some patients.

Are steroids sometimes used in treating COVID-19? Why? The FDA has approved the drug dexamethasone for the treatment of COVID-19 pneumonia, as it has shown to reduce risk of death in some patients.

Do you place people with COVID-19 on ventilators?

Yes. Patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia sometimes require intubation (breathing tube) and mechanical ventilation (ventilators) to maintain safe oxygen levels. We may place patients on ventilators in order to save their lives.

Do all patients with COVID-19 die if placed on ventilators?

No. Patients who are placed on ventilators are very sick. Ventilators can help patients maintain oxygen levels in their body when they are unable to do so on their own. When other options are exhausted, some patients with COVID-19 may need this life-saving intervention after a discussion with the patient or their family about risks and benefits from this treatment. While some patients do not survive, many patients who are placed on ventilators are eventually able to be removed. Our clinicians do everything they can to help patients who are on ventilators recover.