

COVID-19 treatments may avoid serious illness

May 19, 2022

Dear Kidney Patient,

As you know, COVID-19 continues in British Columbia. Despite taking precautions and being vaccinated, people with kidney disease remain vulnerable to becoming infected. They are at higher risk of serious complications.

Treatments are available for people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who have COVID 19. The medications should be started within a few days of experiencing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 infection. A positive COVID-test (rapid acting or PCR) is needed to be eligible.

If you develop cold or flu-like symptoms, you should get tested for COVID-19 as soon as possible. Please test yourself or request a test from your care team and let the staff know you have kidney disease. You may want to bring this letter with you to support your need for quick access to testing. If you experience issues accessing a test, contact your kidney care team.

If your test result is negative, it means COVID-19 was not detected. It is still possible that you have COVID-19. If your symptoms persist or worsen, seek retesting and contact your kidney care team.

If you test positive, let your kidney care team know immediately. Infection experts will work with your care team to determine if you might benefit from available treatments.

These new treatments are a positive development in our fight against COVID-19. We are pleased that people living with kidney disease are being prioritized for access. Please remember, the most important lines of defense remain vaccination, keeping hands clean, wearing masks and physical distancing.

Your kidney care team is always available to answer any questions you might have about the new COVID-19 treatments, vaccines or other COVID concerns.

This document is current as of May 19, 2022. Check the BC Renal or the BCCDC web site for the most current available information and updates on COVID-19.