



MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENTS EXPLAINED

MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENTS AVAILABLE TO AT-RISK IDAHOANS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for several monoclonal antibody treatments for mild or moderate COVID-19 for those at high risk of developing severe disease and hospitalization due to COVID-19.

Due to limited supply, however, there is no guarantee the treatment will be available for everyone, and it may not be effective in all cases. The COVID-19 vaccine remains the best protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and even death.

What is monoclonal antibody treatment?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made molecules that act as substitute antibodies. They can help your immune system recognize and respond more effectively to the virus, making it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm.

Monoclonal antibodies have shown to be effective in reversing sickness caused by COVID-19 and have reduced the risk of hospitalization by 70 percent in clinical trials. However, they do not teach the body to produce its own antibodies and may leave a person exposed to future COVID-19 infection.

Monoclonal antibody treatments are not a replacement for the COVID-19 vaccine, which remains the best way to protect from severe illness, hospitalization or death.

Who's eligible

The treatment is reserved for high-risk patients. It requires a referral from a doctor or other healthcare provider and a positive virus test, which is an FDA-approved or authorized COVID-19 test that finds the virus' genetic material or molecules from its surface.

Where to receive treatment?

It is available from a growing number of healthcare providers in Idaho, but they're still limited because manufacturers cut back on production when the pandemic slowed in the spring and summer of 2021. Sites are listed at <https://protect-public.hhs.gov/pages/therapeutics-distribution>. Your provider will need to refer you for treatment if you are ill with COVID-19 and qualify.

There's no guarantee you'll have access to monoclonal antibody treatment if you get sick. The vaccine is still the best tool we have to prevent serious illness and hospitalization.

For more information on monoclonal antibody treatments, visit healthandwelfare.idaho.gov.