



January 20, 2022

The Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinic

Island Health has established an Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinic for the evaluation and treatment of vulnerable patients in the community who have mild to moderate COVID-19 infection.

New treatments used to prevent worsening symptoms of COVID-19 are now available in BC. At this time a **monoclonal antibody therapy-sotrovimab**, is available for administration intravenously at 1 of 3 infusion clinics in Island Health. Soon other oral antiviral medications will also be available for certain eligible patients.

To be effective, all these medications must be given very early in the course of illness, preferably within 5 to 7 days of symptom onset.

What patients are eligible for treatment?

- A. **You must:** have a **positive Covid test** -either a PCR test or a rapid antigen test with proof of positivity. If rapid Antigen test positive you must be registered on the BC website or have other proof of positive test.
- B. **You must: be assessed within 6 days** of symptom onset to be eligible. The infusion must be administered on or before your 7th day of symptoms.
- C. **You must:** be at risk for **progression to severe disease** and be **in one of the following 3 patient categories:**
 1. any **individual over the age of 55** who is **unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated** (less than 2 doses of mRNA vaccine). The older you are, the greater your chance of having a severe case of COVID-19.
 2. Any **unvaccinated individual between the ages of 12 and 55 with a comorbid medical condition**, including:
 - a. Congestive heart failure (New York Heart Association class II, III, or IV)
 - b. Chronic Kidney Disease (GFR <60)
 - c. Chronic Respiratory Disease (COPD or moderate-severe asthma)
 - d. Diabetes (taking oral medication or insulin)
 - e. Obesity (BMI>30)
 - f. Other medical conditions including pregnancy, prior organ transplant, sickle cell disease, Down syndrome, and other forms of immunosuppression and immunodeficiency
 3. **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) patients**, regardless of vaccination status, who are unlikely to adequately respond to vaccination. These include individuals with:
 - a. Active treatment for solid tumor or hematological malignancies within the last year
 - b. Having received a solid organ transplant and ongoing treatment with immunosuppressive medications
 - c. Receiving CAR-T cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant in the last 2 yrs
 - d. Having a moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency
 - e. Having advanced untreated HIV or AIDS
 - f. Have an autoimmune or inflammatory condition requiring treatment with any systemic immunosuppressive therapy within the past year (monoclonal antibody therapy, high-dose prednisone, cyclophosphamide, methotrexate)



How do You Contact the Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinic

If you have COVID-19 infection and meet the above criteria call the **Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinic** and speak to the nursing unit assistant. **Phone number:** 250-737-2030 * 44685

If eligible, you will have a telehealth appointment scheduled with a healthcare provider that same day for further evaluation. If treatment is offered to you and you agreed to proceed, an infusion time will be booked at one of the 3 **Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Clinics** in Island Health. These clinics are located at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Nanaimo Regional General Hospital, and Campbell River Hospital.

About Sotrovimab and the Infusion Clinic Visit

Sotrovimab is a monoclonal antibody, a type of protein that attaches to the spike protein of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, to prevent the virus from entering and infecting healthy cells within your body. It is administered by intravenous infusion given over 60 minutes, by a qualified healthcare professional. After the infusion you will be monitored for another 60 minutes for any potential side effects or transfusion reactions. Most patients tolerate the treatment extremely well. For more information on Sotrovimab please **see the LINK above**.

What to expect after the Infusion

- A follow-up telephone appointment with a clinic physician will be scheduled for 2 days post infusion review your status.
- Some patients may have home oxygen monitoring arranged at the time of discharge
- Most patients with mild illness do not progress to severe disease. Receiving sotrovimab reduces the risk of progression by nearly 80%.
- If your symptoms worsen or you have any questions or concerns you can either contact the OCTC nurse during clinic hours or call your primary care provider. If neither are available, you can call 8-1-1.
- Go to an urgent care clinic, emergency department, or call 911 if you: have difficulty breathing, have chest pain, can't drink, feel very sick, feel confused, or experience any loss of consciousness.

Next steps and future access

Island health is making every effort to ensure timely and fair access for all patients who qualify to receive COVID-19 therapies. However, given geographic constraints and pandemic pressures it is impossible to have this therapy readily available for all patients given the time constraints for administration. As new oral antiviral drugs become available the OCTC will have other treatment options which will improve access to these important therapies.

For any questions, concerns, or help with this information, contact the hupatu Health Team:

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