

COVID-19 Treatment

Overview on ivermectin for patients



The health and safety of our patients is our top priority. In keeping with evidence-based prescribing practices and guidance from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we do not support or recommend the administration of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19.

Why ivermectin should NOT be used to prevent or treat COVID-19

- Ivermectin is not currently authorized by the FDA to prevent or treat COVID-19. [The FDA released a consumer alert warning](#) against the use of ivermectin products to treat COVID. Ivermectin is only approved by the FDA for specific uses, including to treat infections caused by parasitic worms, head lice and skin conditions like rosacea.
- Many organizations including the CDC, National Institutes for Health, American Medical Association, Infectious Diseases Society of America, American Pharmacists Association, and the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists agree that there is not enough scientific evidence at this time to support using ivermectin for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19.
- There are also safety concerns with ivermectin use for COVID-19. There are reports of patients using ivermectin without a prescription or ingesting products not intended for human use and experiencing side effects. Those who support ivermectin to treat COVID-19 recommend a much higher dose than what is prescribed to treat other types of infections such as parasites. These higher doses can be dangerous and cause side effects including gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhea), neurological symptoms (e.g., hallucinations, seizures) and cardiovascular symptoms (e.g., fast heart rate, low blood pressure and even death).

Our position

- At Advocate Aurora Health, our physician and pharmacy leaders recommend that our patients do not use any form of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19 infection.
- Therefore, Advocate Aurora Health will not dispense ivermectin for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 in our hospitals or retail pharmacies.

Keeping you safe

The safest and most effective way to prevent severe COVID-19 infection and death is to get fully vaccinated and receive a booster. We also recommend continuing to follow proven prevention measures, which include wearing masks indoors, physical distancing, avoiding crowds and using hand sanitizer.