

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ORAL ANTI-VIRALS:

- Don't ever share your tablets, or take anyone else's tablets. If you should be taking them, your doctor will prescribe the right ones for you, based on your health and what other medicines you take
- You may need to stop or change the other medicines that you regularly take, while you are taking the Anti-Virals. Your doctor will explain this to you if needed

WHAT TO DO NOW:

- Talk to your family
- Talk to your clinic and make sure that they have a list of all the medications that you take
- Check with your health worker that your blood tests are up to date
- Plan to get a COVID test as soon as possible if you have any COVID symptoms

HOW TO ACCESS ORAL ANTI-VIRALS:

You will need a prescription from your doctor, so if you test positive to COVID-19 you can:

- Contact your local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or GP
- Call the HealthDirect National Coronavirus Helpline: 1800 020 080
- Remember that it is best if the health care professionals know that you identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, so that they can check if you are eligible for the medication

COVID ORAL ANTI- VIRALS

COVID Oral Anti-Virals are tablet medication that can be taken twice a day for five days to stop the COVID infection getting worse.

For more information visit
ahcsa.org.au or call 08 8273 7200

*this is the latest information available in relation to the
COVID-19 Oral Anti-Viral Medication as of March 2023



Aboriginal Health Council
of South Australia Ltd.

WHAT ARE COVID ORAL ANTI-VIRALS?

- COVID Oral Anti-Virals are tablet medication that can be taken twice a day for five days to stop the COVID infection getting worse
- COVID anti-viral medication is most effective when taken as soon as possible after symptoms begin
- It works by stopping the COVID virus from making copies of itself in our bodies

WHEN MIGHT SOMEONE NEED THE ORAL ANTI-VIRAL MEDICATION?

- If a positive RAT or PCR result for COVID-19 is received
- If you are COVID-positive and have symptoms like a cough, runny nose or trouble breathing, then medication will be important to start taking as soon as possible
- If you feel you need the anti-viral medication, your doctor can do a check-up either by phone or in person to decide if this is right for you. Doctors won't write a prescription 'just in case'

WHAT DOES THE ORAL ANTI-VIRAL MEDICATION DO?

- It stops sickness from getting worse and therefore helps prevent serious life threatening illness and the need to go to hospital
- Even though you might still have symptoms from COVID-19, it doesn't mean that the medicine isn't working

WHO CAN USE THE ORAL ANTI-VIRAL MEDICATION?

- People who are most likely to get very sick from COVID-19. For Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people this includes:
 - People 18 years or older who are immunocompromised or who have had a past COVID-19 infection resulting in hospitalisation
- People 30 years or older with one additional risk factor for developing severe disease – for example kidney or heart problems
- People 70 years or older

The tablets might look like this



What are the side effects?

- Stomach upset or strange taste
- Some issues may be linked to the COVID infection and not the medication

You can find out more information about Oral Anti-Viral medication by scanning the QR code here:

