



NEWS RELEASE

Mary Brumage
Marketing and Media Specialist
(970) 522-3741 x1257
maryb@nchd.org

December 10, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Available in Northeast Colorado

Sterling, Colo. – December 10, 2021: Monoclonal antibody treatment is a type of immunotherapy that triggers the immune system to attack certain viruses including COVID-19. This therapy effectively manages the severity of COVID-19 in patients who have mild to moderate symptoms. Monoclonal antibody treatment is available in Northeast Colorado at multiple local clinics and within Colorado at several state-led mobile treatment clinics recently launched by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). While the medication is free to everyone, some locations may require an administration fee that is paid for through Medicaid, Medicare and many private health insurances. Check with your insurance provider to be sure of coverage if you have any concerns. State-led clinics are free of administration fees. Monoclonal antibody treatment is authorized for adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 88 pounds) who have recently been diagnosed with COVID-19, have mild to moderate symptoms that started in the past 10 days and are at high risk for progression to severe disease. In addition, it can also be given as a preventative treatment for some high-risk individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19. Currently, state-led monoclonal antibody treatment locations are not

offering preventative treatment; however, enrolled monoclonal antibody providers may be able to offer post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) therapy to their patients.

Monoclonal antibody therapy is given as a one-time IV infusion. It takes 20 minutes to an hour for the infusion, followed by an hour of observation. This treatment gives a temporary boost to the immune system which can keep you from getting sicker, prevent hospitalization and make you feel better, faster.

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, you may be able to get monoclonal antibody treatment to help you recover. This treatment can help keep you from getting seriously sick and keep you out of the hospital. Monoclonal antibody treatments are not a substitute for vaccination against COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is the best way to keep from getting sick with COVID-19.

These qualifications must be met to be eligible for the treatment:

- Symptoms started within the last 10 days
- Not hospitalized or on oxygen due to COVID-19
- Risk of getting very sick without treatment
- People who are 65 years old or older
- People who are obese or overweight, including children age 12 to 17
- Pregnant people
- People with certain underlying medical conditions

People are able to make their own appointment for monoclonal antibody therapy at state-led clinics. You must have an appointment to receive treatment at a state-led clinic. Monoclonal antibody treatment still requires a licensed provider's authorization.

The administering medical professional at the state-led clinic must review and validate the patient's self-screening answers to verify the patient is eligible for treatment. The

mobile clinic's provider will authorize treatment, or the administering medical professional will operate under the standing order issued by Colorado's Chief Medical Officer on November 23, 2021.

Patients can call the COVID-19 vaccine hotline at 1-877-CO VAX CO (1-877-268-2926) for help making an appointment. The hotline is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. MT. The call center will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. Patients can also find more information and a list of upcoming available appointments at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/for-coloradans/covid-19-treatments>. Additionally, there are 30+ infusion centers in Colorado. The QR code below will link to Google maps pinpointing locations nearest you.



###