



**The Hon Mark Butler MP
Minister for Health and Aged Care**

**The Hon Anika Wells MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Sport**

Dear resident and family

Oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19

Our third winter living with COVID-19 has been particularly hard on older Australians, with many residential aged care homes experiencing outbreaks impacting residents, their families, staff and volunteers.

Fortunately, this year we have effective medications to help those at the greatest risk of developing severe illness from coronavirus.

You may have already had COVID-19 and taken these medications as tablets or capsules, or you may know friends and loved ones who have done so.

Oral antiviral treatments are safe, effective and available for all Australians aged 70 or over who test positive for COVID-19, even if they have no symptoms or other risk factors. People who live in residential aged care who are 50 years or older, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are 30 years or older and have another risk factor, are also eligible for the oral antiviral treatments.

These treatments are saving lives.

Please, talk to your family, your doctor and your residential aged care home about your treatment options. This is especially important because of the risk of reinfection and because we anticipate future surges in infection including throughout spring.

Oral antiviral treatments must be taken within five days of symptoms starting. You will need a prescription for them immediately following a positive COVID-19 test. **Planning ahead and giving your consent early** will help to ensure you have rapid access to this medication as soon as you register a positive COVID test.

Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself from severe illness. Please stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations and continue to practise simple but critical measures like **good hand hygiene**.

Our healthcare experts are learning more about COVID-19 every day and **monitoring the latest research** in Australia, and internationally. We are getting closer to being able to manage COVID-19 like a seasonal cold or flu. **Oral antivirals** are very important to the health of older Australians affected by COVID-19.

Yours sincerely

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For more information about COVID-19 treatments, visit the Department of Health and Aged Care website www.health.gov.au or ask for a [fact sheet](#) from the staff at your home.