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NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

Update for Providers regarding COVID-19 & Immunocompromised Patients

2/22/2022

Summary

New Mexicans will be receiving information about resources available for immunocompromised individuals to help prevent severe COVID-19 infection in a press release scheduled 2/23/22. The press release will include information regarding continued mask usage in indoor spaces, [CDC 4th dose COVID-19 vaccine booster guidance](#) (for the immunocompromised only, NOT the general public), and Evusheld pre-exposure prophylaxis. Additionally, patients who identified themselves as immunocompromised on the New Mexico Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine registration portal will receive a text message with information regarding resources they may be eligible for.

Who is considered immunocompromised¹:

According to the CDC, moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatments include but are not limited to:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT) (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection (people with HIV and CD4 cell counts <200/mm³, history of an AIDS-defining illness without immune reconstitution, or clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV)
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day when administered for ≥2 weeks), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor necrosis factor (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory

Mask Usage

People who are immunocompromised may not be protected even if they are up to date on their COVID vaccines. According to the CDC, they should continue to take all [precautions recommended for people who are not vaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitting mask](#).²

¹ [Frequently Asked Questions on the Emergency Use Authorization for Evusheld & Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

² [People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC](#)

Immunocompromised individuals may consider use of a KN95 or N95 respirator. A respirator has better filtration. Respirators provide a higher level of protection than a cloth or procedural mask if worn properly.³

CDC 4th Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Guidance

The New Mexico Department of Health issued a HAN on February 14th regarding the CDC COVID-19 vaccine booster updates for immunocompromised patients. You may find the HAN by clicking the following link: https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/HAN_Updated-COVID-Vaccine-Guidance-formatted_02_15_22-final_CR.pdf

Evusheld

Evusheld (tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab) is a long-acting monoclonal antibody. It is given by two consecutive intramuscular injections. Evusheld may be redosed every six months. Evusheld received an Emergency Use Authorization on December 8, 2021 for COVID-19 pre-exposure prophylaxis in patients who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or who have a medical vaccine contraindication.

New Mexico Department of Health issued a HAN on December 8th regarding Evusheld. The original HAN can be found by clicking the following link: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/12.8.2021-HAN-Evusheld-COVID19.pdf>

What is new on this topic:

Any primary care provider can prescribe Evusheld for appropriate patients as defined by the FDA Emergency Use Authorization for the product. Previously, prescribing was limited to select specialists.

- If you are interested in providing Evusheld at your clinic, please contact COVID.Therapeutics@state.nm.us. You will receive an enrollment form that will take 5-10 minutes to fill out.
- Prescribers can find currently enrolled sites at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/treatments/>

Prescribing Information for Clinicians

- Evusheld is not a substitute for vaccination and may be given two weeks after a patient has received a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Evusheld is not authorized for individuals for the treatment of COVID-19 or for post-exposure prevention of COVID-19.
- Evusheld is indicated for pre-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19 for moderately to severely immunocompromised patients who are not expected to mount an effective immune response to COVID19 vaccination.
- Evusheld is indicated for those whom vaccination with any available COVID-19 vaccine, according to the approved or authorized schedule, is not recommended due to a history of severe adverse reaction (e.g.,

³[Masks and Respirators \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/masks-and-respirators/)



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severe allergic reaction) to a COVID-19 vaccine(s) and/or COVID-19 vaccine component(s).⁴

- COVID-19 vaccine after antibody products: patients who previously received antibody products (anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma) as part of COVID-19 treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, including Evusheld, can be vaccinated any time. COVID-19 vaccination does not need to be delayed.⁵

Access to Evusheld in New Mexico

- If you are interested in providing Evusheld at your clinic, please contact COVID.Therapeutics@state.nm.us. You will receive an enrollment form that will take 5-10 minutes to fill out.
- Prescribers can find currently enrolled sites at: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/treatments/>
- While the state currently has low utilization and plentiful supplies, Evusheld is still under allocation from the federal government. As of 02/22/2022, the state receives 312 additional doses of Evusheld weekly.

Additional Resources:

1. Evusheld Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers <https://www.fda.gov/media/154701/download>
2. EUA for Evusheld Providers (<https://www.fda.gov/media/154701/download>)
3. EUA for Recipients and Caregivers (<https://www.fda.gov/media/154702/download>)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjz/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.

⁴ [Frequently Asked Questions on the Emergency Use Authorization for Evusheld](#)

⁵ [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)