

COVID-19 Update

Update: COVID-19 therapeutics in B.C.

Date: Tuesday Nov. 29 2022

To: All VCH and PHC physicians and pharmacy staff

From: Dr. Jennifer Grant, Medical Microbiologist and Infectious Diseases Physician, VGH
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We wanted to inform you of recommendations published on Nov. 21 by B.C.'s COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee (CTC) and COVID-19 Treatment Review and Advisory Group. Important changes are the result of newly published studies, as well as the changing prevalence of variants of the Omicron lineage. Specifically we are seeing high and accelerating rates of resistance to available monoclonal antibodies (currently 29.6 per cent).

We have provided a summary of the new recommendations below; in addition to the [official memo](#) which is attached to this email.

Because of these changes, the CTC now considers both monoclonal antibodies (tixagevimab/cilgavimab and Sotrovimab) as second-line therapies and they should only be prescribed in exceptional circumstances when other more effective therapies are contraindicated or impossible. They should not be considered as a replacement for anti-viral therapies such as Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir or Remdesivir, neither of which have known resistance in B.C. at this time.

If you are prescribing monoclonal antibodies, clinicians should be aware of the potential for significant side effects, particularly cardiac events with tixagevimab/cilgavimab, and patients should be made aware of the uncertainty of the risk/benefit ratio.

Thank you for your continued dedication to providing quality, evidence-based care to your patients at greatest risk from COVID-19 infection. If you have questions, please speak to your Medical Director or line manager.