



# WELLCOME<sup>MD</sup>



## COVID Updates

### **Monoclonal Antibody treatment**

When the pandemic first began, no specific treatment for COVID-19 existed. Since then, the [FDA has granted](#) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to several monoclonal antibody therapies as a treatment for COVID-19. With monoclonal antibody therapy (mAb), physicians now have a way to prevent severe symptoms from developing in those who are at high risk.

The goal of this therapy is to help prevent hospitalizations, reduce viral loads and lessen symptom severity. MAb treatment is available for individuals who are at a high risk for developing severe COVID-19, have a positive COVID-19 test, have not been admitted to hospital, and are 12 years or older (and at least 88 lbs). High risk includes any of the following: 65 years of age or older, overweight (BMI greater than 25), chronic kidney disease, weakened immune system, diabetes (Type 1 and Type2), heart disease, hypertension, COPD, sickle cell disease, and neurodevelopment disorders.

"The mAb therapy available to our patients in Richmond is manufactured by Regeneron and appears to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death by approximately 70% for treatment of mild to moderate COVID in non-hospitalized patients," says WellcomeMD's Dr. Neal Carl. "For mAb therapy to be most effective it needs to be taken as early as possible. So, the sooner the better - even if you are not feeling bad yet."

Please note, that although this therapy can be extremely effective, it is not a replacement for vaccination. It remains important to get vaccinated to break the virus' chain of transmission. Please contact your doctor if you are positive for COVID to see if you are a candidate.

### **Delta Variant**

The CDC estimates the delta variant represents more than [99% of new](#) COVID-19 infections. The Delta variant is [more than 2x](#) as contagious as previous variants. Medical experts say headache, sore throat, runny nose and fever appear to be [more common](#) with the delta variant than the original COVID-19 strain.

If you feel you may have been exposed to COVID-19, or have any of the above symptoms please contact our office immediately. Your doctor can help determine the best testing and treatment options for you, based on your health history.

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