

# Evusheld for COVID-19 Pre-exposure Prophylaxis

## Frequently Asked Questions for Patient Inquiries

### **What is Evusheld?**

Evusheld is a combination of long acting monoclonal antibodies for prevention of COVID-19 in people who are not currently infected with COVID-19.

### **How do monoclonal antibodies like Evusheld work?**

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made antibodies intended to mimic antibodies that normally get produced by the body after infection. Evusheld works by blocking the virus from attaching to human cells and therefore stopping an infection before it occurs

### **How is it Evusheld different from the vaccine?**

Monoclonal antibodies can help prevent COVID if you have been exposed or help you avoid getting seriously ill by giving your immune system a boost.

Vaccines train your immune system and prepare it so that if you are exposed to the virus, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off. Vaccines provide other important immune responses like T cell and B cell activation that EvuSheld does not.

### **How well does Evusheld work?**

In a clinical trial of over 5,000 patients, Evusheld was shown to lower the risk of developing symptomatic COVID-19 by 77% compared to those in the clinical trial who received a placebo injection.

### **Is Evusheld FDA approved?**

No. Evusheld has been granted emergency use authorization (EUA) by The Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### **Who can get Evusheld under the FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?**

The FDA EUA authorizes use as pre-exposure prophylaxis for prevention of COVID-19 in adults and pediatrics (12 years and older weighing at least 40kg) who are not currently infected with COVID-19 and who have not had a known recent exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19 and:

Who have moderate to severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments and may not mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination

OR

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

## **What is FDA Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)?**

FDA can authorize an EUA to an unapproved product if, among other things, it is reasonable to believe that the product may be effective in diagnosing, treating, or preventing a serious or life-threatening disease or condition and that the known and potential benefits, when used to treat, diagnose or prevent such disease or condition, outweigh the known and potential risks for the product; and that there are no adequate, approved, and available alternatives.

## **Can I get Evusheld instead of a COVID-19 Vaccine?**

No. Pre-exposure prophylaxis with Evusheld is not a substitute for vaccination in individuals for whom COVID-19 vaccination is recommended. Vaccines provide other important immune responses like T and B cell activation that Evusheld does not.

## **Can I get Evusheld if I have been vaccinated?**

Yes. However, you should wait 2 weeks from COVID-19 vaccine to receive Evusheld. Giving the COVID-19 vaccine and Evusheld inside two weeks may reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine.

## **Can I get the vaccine after I get Evusheld?**

Yes. However, you should wait 2 weeks from Evusheld to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Giving the COVID-19 vaccine and Evusheld inside two weeks may reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine.

## **What other medications are available for pre-exposure prophylaxis of COVID-19?**

The vaccine is the only other medication approved by the FDA or available under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration

## **Can I get Evusheld if I've had a recent close contact exposure to COVID-19?**

If you have had a recent close contact exposure to someone positive for COVID-19, you can receive Evusheld after you have completed the recommended quarantine according to current CDC guidelines.

## **What are the side effects of Evusheld?**

The most common side effects from a study of over 3,000 patients who received Evusheld were headache (6%), Fatigue (4%) and Cough (3%).

The most severe side effects were cardiovascular events which occurred in 0.6% of patients who received Evusheld. These cardiovascular events include myocardial infarctions, cardiac failure, arrhythmia, heart pain, cardio-respiratory arrest and stroke.

## **How is Evusheld given and how long does it take?**

Evusheld is administered as two separate intramuscular (IM) injections that are given over a few seconds. Following the injections you will be observed for 1 hour to make sure you do not have a reaction

## **The FDA recently increased the dosage for Evusheld. Why did they do that?**

Due to decreased effectiveness against the Omicron subvariants (BA.1 and BA.1.1) the initial dosage was increased to 300mg of tixagevimab and 300mg of cilgavimab.

**What if I initially received 150mg of tixgevimab and 150mg of cilgavimab?**

If you already received the previously authorized dose the recommendation is to receive a second Evusheld dose as soon as possible.

**How often is Evusheld given?**

Evusheld was previously authorized to be given every six months. On February 25<sup>th</sup> the FDA updated the EUA. Since it is not clear what COVID variant will become dominant over the next few months, the recommended timing for repeat dosing cannot be provided at this time. The Fact Sheets will be revised with repeat dosing recommendations in the near future.

**How much does Evusheld cost?**

There is no cost for the medication itself. There may be some costs associated with the treatment administration. Costs associated with providing the treatment may be billed to your insurance or to Medicare/Medicaid.

**Can you get Evusheld if you are pregnant or breastfeeding?**

Evusheld may be given during pregnancy and mothers may continue breastfeeding after receiving this treatment.

**Does Evusheld interact with any of the medications I am already on?**

There are no known drug interactions with Evusheld