



Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19 Can Help Patients Recover

- As a non-profit healthcare system, Intermountain Healthcare participates in the latest treatments to keep people healthy—even if you don't have insurance.
- Federal programs help pay for novel treatments that can help people with COVID-19.
- By coordinating monoclonal antibody treatments to people at elevated risk of getting sicker with COVID-19, we protect them and our community from the effects of COVID.
- Learn about novel COVID-19 treatments at Intermountain at [IntermountainHealthcare.org](https://www.intermountainhealthcare.org) or by visiting [Coronavirus.Utah.gov](https://www.coronavirus.utah.gov).

Here in Utah, Idaho, and Nevada, Intermountain Healthcare helps people live the healthiest lives possible by preventing disease and treating illness. Because COVID-19 has continued to adapt with new variants, we've continued to adapt with new treatments. There are many reasons for hope, including new treatments to help people with COVID-19 heal that often prevent emergency room visits or hospital stays. It's called a monoclonal antibody (MAb) infusion.

Caring for Those in Need: Preexisting Conditions

For many healthy people, COVID is like an aggressive and extended flu. But for those with weakened immune systems or preexisting conditions, COVID-19 can mean at-home oxygen tanks, several emergency room visits, or extended hospital stays. New treatments from monoclonal antibody (MAb) can help people with COVID-19 fight back against the virus and lower their overall viral load.

People considered at high risk for developing more serious symptoms are eligible for monoclonal antibody (MAb) treatment. And it's available for people 12 and older with underlying conditions who have recently been diagnosed with COVID-19. Because infusion therapies are conducted in spaces typically used by people with cancer or autoimmune diseases, spaces must be coordinated appropriately.

What Makes Someone Higher Risk for COVID-19 Complications?

Complications from COVID are similar to complications for other diseases. Based on what we've seen in our hospitals and clinics, combined with data from around the globe, higher risk for COVID complications includes three main groups:

- **People age 65 and older**
- **People age 55 and older with complicating factors** like heart disease, high blood pressure, or respiratory problems like asthma, chronic respiratory disease, or COPD
- **People age 12 and older with underlying conditions**, a weakened immune system, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or obesity (a BMI of 35+)

When to Get Treatment: The Earlier, The Better

The earlier you get treated for COVID-19, the better the outcome. Many people are used to treating themselves at home with over-the-counter medicines and sleep. But when it comes to treatment with monoclonal antibody (MAB), **you should get treated as soon as possible**. This gives your body the best chance to fight off the COVID-19 virus and heal faster. People who get treated earlier have better results, including far fewer trips to the emergency room and far fewer stays in the hospital.

What Does Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) Treatment Look Like?

Monoclonal antibody (MAB) treatment is surprisingly simple. One, one-hour treatment in an infusion center is all it takes. Providers hook you up to an IV bag and monitor you on site. And that's it. Your primary care physician will do your follow-up visits, and daily phone calls with health professionals will make sure you're doing great after the treatment.

Monoclonal Antibody is New. Can I Afford Such a New Treatment?

Yes, everyone can get treated with monoclonal antibody (MAB) treatment because federal funding pays for every treatment. Any remaining balance for the infusion center time and resources is covered by your insurance, a voucher program, or financial assistance. (Some insurance plans may require a copay, so double check if your insurance does.) **Everyone can access treatment, regardless of their ability to pay.**

Hope is on the Horizon. For More Information:

More than 3,000 people were included in the monoclonal antibody (MAB) studies. Since then, 900+ people in Utah have benefitted from the treatment. Treatments lessen the effects of COVID-19. You can learn more about monoclonal antibody (MAB) treatments in Utah by visiting <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics/>.

“I received the monoclonal antibody treatment on Friday. It’s Monday now and my wife and I are deeply appreciative. I now feel perfectly fine.”

