

## Australia provisionally approves oral COVID-19 pills by Merck & Pfizer

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**These oral antiviral treatments need a prescription and are taken every 12 hours for five days**



The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) in Australia has issued provisional approval of the first oral treatments for COVID-19- Lagevrio (molnupiravir) and Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir).

Lagevrio and Paxlovid are oral anti-viral treatments that have been found to be effective in treating people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who have a high risk of progressing to severe disease, reducing admissions to hospital and ICU and potential death.

The government has secured access to 300,000 treatment courses of Merck Sharp & Dohme's (MSD) Lagevrio and 500,000 courses of Pfizer's Paxlovid for supply throughout the course of 2022, with the first deliveries of both medicines anticipated over the coming weeks.

Lagevrio and Paxlovid will supplement the existing National Medical Stockpile supplies of Xevudy (sotrovimab) and Veklury (remdesivir) and future supplies of Evusheld (tixagevimab with cilgavimab), the later pending a final TGA decision on registration.