In November, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization to allow the use of monoclonal antibodies for the treatment of mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients.

What are monoclonal antibodies?

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic your immune system’s ability to fight off harmful viruses. Bamlanivimab and casirivimab + imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are specifically designed to protect against the spike protein of COVID-19. These proteins are designed to stop the virus from entering the human cells.

Who can get this treatment?

To receive the treatment you must be in one of the high risk categories:

- Are age 12 to 17
  - AND have any of the following:
    - High BMI
    - Sickle cell disease
    - Heart disease
    - Neurodevelopment disorders
    - A medical related dependence
    - Chronic respiratory diseases
    - Asthma

- Are age 55 to 64
  - AND have any of the following:
    - Cardiovascular disease
    - Hypertension
    - Chronic respiratory diseases
    - COPD

- Are age 65 or older
  - No underlying conditions required
  - AND have any of the following:
    - Chronic kidney disease
    - BMI of 35 or greater
    - Diabetes
    - Immunosuppressive disease

These medications are NOT approved for use in patients who are hospitalized due to COVID-19 or require oxygen therapy. Benefits of treatment have not been observed in patients hospitalized due to COVID-19. Monoclonal antibodies may be associated with worse clinical outcomes when given to patients with COVID-19 requiring oxygen ventilation. Individual administration sites may have additional criteria for use of these monoclonal antibody therapies in patients.
Treatment locations
Open the camera app
Focus the camera on the QR code
Follow the instructions to see locations

Can I get treatment if I get sick?
If you receive a positive test result for COVID-19 and fall into any of the high risk categories, your doctor may recommend treatment to you.

Where can I go to get treatment?
To see locations that offer monoclonal antibody therapy through this program, scan the QR code with your cell phone.

Antibody Therapy
A protein that binds to the virus and stops it from infecting you
Treats those who are already infected with the COVID-19 virus
As soon as it is given
Weeks to months

What is it?
What is it for?
How fast does it work?
How long does the protection last?

Antibody Therapy vs Vaccine

Vaccine
A piece of the virus your immune system can recognize
Trains the immune system to fight against the COVID-19 virus
1-2 weeks after both doses are given
Years to lifetime (may need boosters)

For more information contact:
Arkansas Department of Health
1-800-803-7847
ADH.CoronaVirus@arkansas.gov