

May 25, 2022

| Evusheld = tixagevimab + cilgavimab | | |
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| WHAT: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ EVUSHELD is a medicine that may help prevent COVID-19 illness | WHO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For adults and children 12 years and older that weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 lbs) AND○ Are at an extremely high risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19 AND○ Are not currently exposed to or have COVID-19 | HOW: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 injections (one in each buttock) given by a healthcare provider every 6 months |

What is it?

- Evusheld is a medicine that provides additional immunity (antibodies) to help prevent COVID-19.
- It is given every six months as a pre-exposure prophylactic (prevention) agent.
- Evusheld is provided free of cost.

How does it work?

- Evusheld contains the active substances tixagevimab and cilgavimab. These are types of protein called 'monoclonal antibodies' and mimic the immune system's ability to fight viruses. Evusheld works specifically against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19 illness). The antibodies attach to the virus and stop it from infecting healthy cells in your body. This can help prevent you from getting COVID-19 illness.
- It takes approximately 29 days to build protection after a dose from the antibodies.

Who can it help?

- Evusheld can be used on a case-by-case basis in adults and children 12 years and older (weighing at least 40 kg), who have been identified by their doctor at an extremely high risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19.

Evusheld use is limited to people who are:

- Severely immunocompromised
- **AND** who have no known cardiovascular disease
- **AND** who have additional risk factors or exceptional circumstances that put them at an extremely high risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19
- Evusheld is not used to treat COVID-19 infection or prevent infection in people who have been exposed to the virus.
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 should wait until they are fully recovered before receiving Evusheld.

- Vaccination is still recommended to reduce the risk of serious outcomes from COVID-19. Get all vaccine doses, including any boosters, before receiving Evusheld. Do not delay vaccination.
 - Evusheld can be given 14 days after a COVID-19 vaccine.

How is it given?

- Evusheld is administered at a physician's office or hospital clinic. A healthcare provider gives you two injections (one in each buttock) every 6 months. It needs to be given every 6 months to keep antibody levels high enough to be effective against the virus.
- You need to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes following the injections in case you have a reaction.

What are the precautions?

- Patients with hypersensitivity or allergy to tixagevimab or cilgavimab or any of the other ingredients in Evusheld should not receive Evusheld. Patients who are allergic to COVID-19 vaccines can receive Evusheld.
- Evusheld is not currently recommended for people with known cardiovascular disease (i.e., known coronary artery disease, history of heart attacks, unstable angina, heart failure or irregular heart rate or rhythm). In a clinical trial, more patients who received Evusheld experienced heart-related side effects compared to those who received a placebo (saline injection). The rate of these side effects was very small (0.5%), and all patients had cardiovascular risk factors. Evusheld has not been proven to cause these adverse effects.
- Discuss with your care provider if you have low numbers of blood platelets (which help blood clotting), a bleeding disorder or are taking an anticoagulant medicine (to prevent blood clots).
- Discuss with your care provider if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

What are the possible side effects?

- Some people may experience cough, headache, and fatigue in the days after their dose. Side effects are usually mild and last a few days, much like a vaccine.
- Contact your healthcare professional or get medical help right away if you get any symptoms of cardiac events, including pain, pressure, or discomfort in the chest, arms, neck, back, stomach or jaw, as well as shortness of breath, feeling tired or weak, nausea, or swelling in your ankles or lower legs.
- If you have other side effects that become bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your care provider or call 8-1-1 and tell them you are taking this Evusheld for COVID-19 prevention.
- Tell your care provider right away or call 9-1-1 if you get any symptoms of an allergic reaction such as difficulty breathing, chest tightness, fall or increase in blood pressure, swelling of your face, throat irritation, rash with hives, itching or an itchy rash.

For more information, visit [BCCDC](https://bccdc.ca/covid19treatments) at bccdc.ca/covid19treatments