



## **Pfizer to provide additional 40,000 PAXLOVID treatment courses in New Zealand to help combat COVID-19**

- *Pfizer confirms it will supply an additional 40,000 PAXLOVID® (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets) treatment courses to the New Zealand Government, bringing the total to 100,000 PAXLOVID treatment courses in New Zealand for 2022.*
- *PAXLOVID is the first oral treatment of its kind; it is a SARS-CoV-2 main protease (Mpro) inhibitor (also known as SARS-CoV-2 3CL protease inhibitor) therapy.*
- *Data demonstrated up to 86% relative risk reduction of COVID-19-related hospitalisation or death from any cause in adults treated with PAXLOVID within five days of symptom onset compared to placebo.*

**AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 12 September 2022** – Pfizer announced today that it will supply the New Zealand Government with an additional 40,000 treatment courses of PAXLOVID® (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets), bringing a total of 100,000 treatment courses in 2022 for New Zealand. This follows the initial supply agreement signed in December 2021, and Medsafe’s provisional consent for the supply and use of PAXLOVID in New Zealand in March 2022.

Pfizer New Zealand Managing Director, Anne Harris, said the provision of this additional supply was an important milestone in the fight against COVID-19, and a testament to the continued collaboration between Pfizer and the New Zealand Government since the beginning of the pandemic.

“Vaccination remains the most effective way to help prevent COVID-19. However, we know we need to tackle the virus on many fronts,” Ms Harris said.

“PAXLOVID provides an important second line of defence for those most at risk and can be an important tool in helping Kiwis to stay out of hospital and avoid serious illness and death.

“This additional supply means more patients will be able to access this COVID-19 oral medicine through their healthcare professional or pharmacy and be treated at home, reducing the impact on hospitals,” Ms Harris said.

Pfizer New Zealand Medical Director Dr Krishan Thiru said: “PAXLOVID is a first-of-its-kind antiviral pill for COVID-19.

“PAXLOVID works by slowing or stopping a virus from replicating. This may help reduce symptoms and the risk of significant health complications.

“This is why it is important for people at higher risk, to get tested for COVID-19 at the first sign of symptoms. That way if they are COVID-19 positive, they can seek medical advice quickly and find out what treatment may be appropriate for them”, Dr Thiru said.

PAXLOVID is an oral medicine and should be taken within the first five days of symptomatic infection. Data demonstrated up to 86% relative risk reduction of COVID-19-related hospitalisation or death from any cause in adults treated with PAXLOVID compared to placebo in those treated within five days of symptom onset, with no deaths in the treatment group.

PAXLOVID has provisional consent for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults 18 years of age and older, who do not require initiation of supplemental oxygen due to COVID-19 and are at increased risk of progression to hospitalisation or death.

People seeking more information can go to: [treatpositive.co.nz](https://treatpositive.co.nz).

Pharmac's access criteria for COVID-19 antivirals is available at: [COVID-19 antivirals: Access Criteria - Pharmac | New Zealand Government](#)

### **About PAXLOVID® (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets)**

PAXLOVID is a SARS-CoV-2 main protease (Mpro) inhibitor (also known as SARS-CoV-2 3CL protease inhibitor) therapy. It was developed to be administered orally so that it can be prescribed early after infection, potentially helping patients avoid severe illness (which can lead to hospitalisation and death). Nirmatrelvir [PF-07321332], which originated in Pfizer laboratories, is designed to block the activity of the Mpro, an enzyme that the coronavirus needs to replicate. Co-administration with a low dose of ritonavir helps slow the metabolism, or breakdown, of nirmatrelvir in order for it to remain active in the body for longer periods of time at higher concentrations to help combat the virus.

Nirmatrelvir is designed to inhibit viral replication at a stage known as proteolysis, which occurs before viral RNA replication. In preclinical studies, nirmatrelvir did not demonstrate evidence of mutagenic DNA interactions.

Current variants of concern can be resistant to treatments that work by binding to the spike protein found on the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. PAXLOVID, however, works intracellularly by binding to the highly conserved Mpro (3CL protease) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus to inhibit viral replication. Nirmatrelvir has shown consistent in vitro antiviral activity against the following variants: Alpha, Beta, Delta, Gamma, Lambda, Mu, and Omicron BA.1 and BA.2.

PAXLOVID is generally administered at a dose of 300 mg (two 150 mg tablets) of nirmatrelvir with one 100 mg tablet of ritonavir, given twice-daily for five days. One carton contains five blister packs of PAXLOVID, as co-packaged nirmatrelvir tablets with ritonavir tablets, providing all required doses for a full five-day treatment course.

### **About Pfizer: Breakthroughs That Change Patients' Lives™**

At Pfizer, we apply science and our global resources to bring therapies to people that extend and significantly improve their lives. We strive to set the standard for quality, safety and value in the discovery, development and manufacture of health care products, including innovative medicines and vaccines. Every day, Pfizer colleagues work across developed and emerging markets to advance wellness, prevention, treatments and cures that challenge the most feared diseases of our time. Consistent with our responsibility as one of the world's premier innovative biopharmaceutical companies, we collaborate with health care providers, governments and local communities to support and expand access to reliable, affordable health care around the world. For more than 170 years, we have worked to make a difference for all who rely on us. For more information, please visit:

[www.pfizer.co.nz](http://www.pfizer.co.nz)

### **Disclosure Notice**

The information contained in this release is as of 12 September 2022. Pfizer assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements contained in this release as the result of new information or future events or developments.

This statement contains forward-looking information about Pfizer's efforts to combat COVID-19 and PAXLOVID (including a Phase 2/3 study in pediatric patients, a potential age-appropriate formulation for three additional planned cohorts of younger than 6 years old, qualitative assessments of available data, potential benefits, expectations for clinical trials, advance purchase agreements and an agreement with MPP, efforts toward equitable access, the anticipated timing of data readouts, regulatory submissions, regulatory approvals or authorisations, potential to maintain antiviral activity against current variants of concern, planned investment and anticipated manufacturing, distribution and supply), involving substantial risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. Risks and uncertainties include, among other things, the uncertainties inherent in research and development, including the ability to meet anticipated clinical endpoints, commencement and/or completion dates for clinical trials, regulatory submission dates, regulatory approval dates and/or launch dates, as well as risks associated with preclinical and clinical data, including the possibility of unfavorable new preclinical, clinical or safety data and further analyses of existing preclinical, clinical or safety data, the ability to produce comparable clinical or other results including efficacy, safety and tolerability profile observed to date, in additional studies or in larger, more diverse populations following commercialisation; the ability of PAXLOVID to maintain efficacy against emerging virus variants; the risk that serious and

unexpected adverse events may occur that have not been previously reported with PAXLOVID use; the risk that preclinical and clinical trial data are subject to differing interpretations and assessments, including during the peer review/publication process, in the scientific community generally, and by regulatory authorities; whether regulatory authorities will be satisfied with the design of and results from these and any future preclinical and clinical studies; whether and when any drug applications or submissions to request emergency use or conditional marketing authorisation for any potential indications for PAXLOVID may be filed in particular jurisdictions and if obtained, whether or when such emergency use authorisation or licenses will expire or terminate; whether and when regulatory authorities in any jurisdictions may approve any applications or submissions for PAXLOVID that may be pending or filed (including a potential new drug application submission in the U.S. and submissions in other jurisdictions), which will depend on myriad factors, including making a determination as to whether the product's benefits outweigh its known risks and determination of the product's efficacy and, if approved, whether it will be commercially successful; decisions by regulatory authorities impacting labeling or marketing, manufacturing processes, safety and/or other matters that could affect the availability or commercial potential of PAXLOVID, including development of products or therapies by other companies; risks related to the availability of raw materials for PAXLOVID; the risk that we may not be able to create or scale up manufacturing capacity on a timely basis or maintain access to logistics or supply channels commensurate with global demand, which would negatively impact our ability to supply the estimated numbers of courses of PAXLOVID within the projected time periods; whether and when additional purchase agreements will be reached; the risk that demand for any products may be reduced or no longer exist; uncertainties regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Pfizer's business, operations and financial results; and competitive developments.

A further description of risks and uncertainties can be found in Pfizer's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021 and in its subsequent reports on Form 10-Q, including in the sections thereof captioned "Risk Factors" and "Forward-Looking Information and Factors That May Affect Future Results", as well as in its subsequent reports on Form 8-K, all of which are filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and available at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov) and [www.pfizer.com](http://www.pfizer.com).

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