# COVID-19 Treatment Approaches

## Potential COVID-19 treatments are in various phases of clinical research and development around the world.

***Attacking the coronavirus requires a diverse set of approaches, which may be different throughout the course of the illness. It is likely that the eventual treatment paradigm for COVID-19 will be multifaceted, relying on medicines from among the various categories discussed below:***

| | Stage of COVID-19 Illness | Description |
|---|---|---|
|  **Vaccine** | **Prior to infection: healthy person** | Prior to SARS-CoV-2 infection, a substance used to resemble the virus **is introduced into the body to stimulate the immune system to make its own antibodies against the virus (often an inactivated version or fragment of the real virus),** this is known as active immunity. This "trigger" for the immune system may help it recognize and respond more robustly if the person is infected by the virus later. |
|  **Neutralizing Antibodies** | **Recently diagnosed mild to moderate COVID-19** | These antibodies are designed to attack the virus directly, neutralizing their effect in the body. They bind to the virus and prevent it from replicating and spreading in the body. The antibodies also help clear the virus from the body. This is a treatment that is most effective if administered before the patient has severe symptoms. |
|  **Convalescent Plasma** | **Hospitalized** | This treatment is derived from patients who had COVID-19 and recovered from it without medical intervention. Their plasma is collected in an effort to find antibodies that can neutralize the virus in newly infected people, similar to neutralizing antibodies. |
|  **Antivirals** | **Hospitalized** | After SARS-CoV-2 has entered and infected cells, **antivirals may prevent the virus from replicating and spreading.** Stopping or slowing viral growth may permit the body's own immune system to clear the virus and reduce symptom severity. |
|  **Anti-Inflammatories** | **Hospitalized** | In COVID-19 infection, increased disease severity can be associated with a hyperinflammatory state. **Anti-inflammatories may dampen an over-active inflammatory response and reduce complications that this may cause.** |