To Prevent Getting Very Sick From COVID, Timing Is Everything

WE CAN DO THIS

American College of Emergency Physicians®
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE
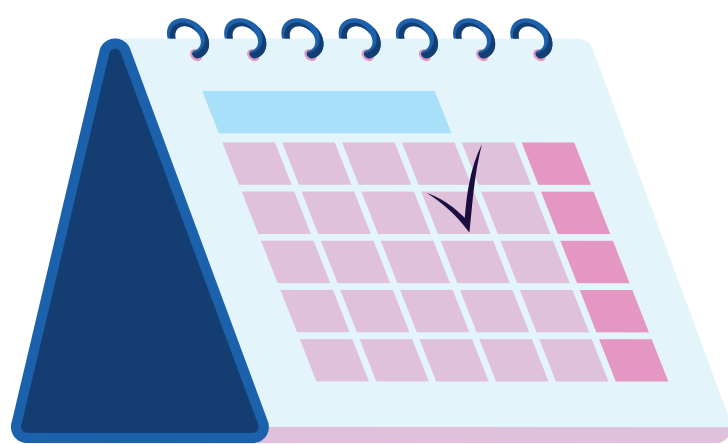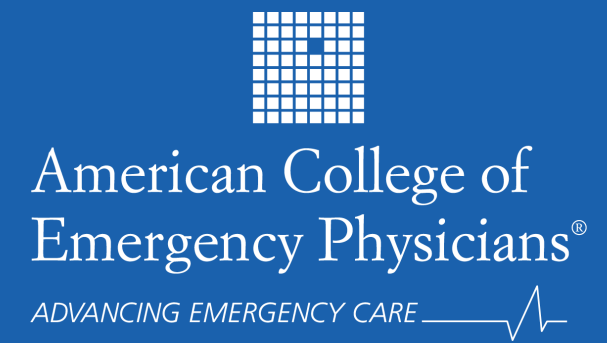
Staying up to date with your COVID vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from getting very sick from COVID. But the FDA has authorized or approved treatments to help prevent severe illness in people who are more likely than others to get very sick from COVID despite vaccination.
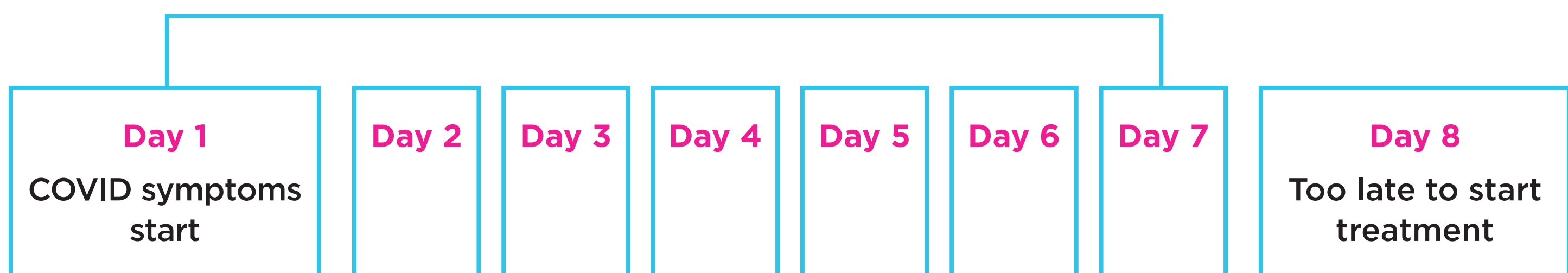
You're more likely to get very sick from COVID if any of these apply to you:

- You're 50 or older
- You have a compromised or weakened immune system
- You have one or more health issues, such as severe asthma; diabetes; obesity; or chronic heart, lung, or kidney conditions

WINDOW FOR STARTING ANTIVIRAL PILLS

Day 1 COVID symptoms start	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6 Too late to start treatment

WINDOW FOR STARTING ANTIVIRAL INFUSION

Day 1 COVID symptoms start	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8 Too late to start treatment

For any of the treatments to work, you must begin taking them within days of when your COVID symptoms start.

Even if your symptoms are mild, treating your COVID early with medicine prescribed by a doctor or other authorized health care provider can make your infection less severe and help keep you out of the hospital. **It could save your life.**

Learn more at cdc.gov/covidtreatment

Content last reviewed: January 12, 2023