

NIDS Statement on Ivermectin

Ivermectin is an FDA-approved medication used to treat parasitic infections and has been in clinical use for nearly 50 years. As with many compounds, ivermectin shows activity against SARS CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) in the laboratory. Given the extent of the pandemic, there is intense interest to find inexpensive and readily available agents (“repurposing” of medications) to treat or prevent COVID-19. Ivermectin has been studied for this purpose, and there has been much discussion about the efficacy of ivermectin for this. Unfortunately, many of the studies on this topic have methodologic flaws, high risk of bias, and some have even been recalled due to questions about the procedures involved.

The Nebraska Infectious Diseases Society (NIDS) recommends against the use of ivermectin in the treatment or prevention of COVID-19 unless in the context of a randomized, controlled clinical trial. The NIDS statement position on ivermectin use parallels the position taken by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)¹ and the World Health Organization (WHO)² in that ivermectin should be used as an active therapeutic only in the context of a clinical trial. The National Institute of Health (NIH)³ states that there is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against the use of ivermectin in the treatment of COVID-19.

While ivermectin is a generally safe medication, there can be health issues that arise if doses above the recommended dose or duration for human parasitic infections or formulations designed for animals are consumed. Currently authorized therapies for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 (such as monoclonal antibodies) are considered first-line and should be used when a person has a new diagnosis or high-risk exposure to COVID-19. Ivermectin should not be used for this purpose. Patient harm and worse outcomes may result if documented effective therapies are withheld in favor of ivermectin. For information about ordering monoclonal antibodies, please see the Nebraska DHHS Health Alert Network at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/han%20Documents/UPDATE09172021.pdf>.

There are currently [ongoing well-designed, controlled studies](#) regarding the use of ivermectin in progress. Should these studies suggest that there is benefit to the use of this medication as an active therapeutic for COVID-19 infection, the NIDS position will change to reflect the new data.

1. <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/>
2. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-therapeutics-2021.2>
3. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antiviral-therapy/ivermectin/>
4. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results?cond=COVID-19&term=ivermectin&cntry=&state=&city=&dist=>