



-For Immediate Release-

SRMC Offers COVID-19 Antibody Treatment

(SALEM, OHIO) – August 26, 2021 - Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC) is offering a treatment for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19, to reduce the possibility of developing severe disease, hospitalization or death. The treatment is monoclonal antibody therapy, which is administered through an outpatient IV infusion or an injection to those at high risk of developing severe symptoms or hospitalization from the virus.

“Antibody therapy is a potential treatment option for those who are at high risk of becoming very sick from the virus and who have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19,” explained Austin Fredrickson, M.D., Internal Medicine physician. “The antibodies mimic the immune system’s ability to fight off the virus.”

“The goal of this antibody therapy is to help stop progression of the virus in those with mild to moderate symptoms to prevent a hospital stay. Potential candidates are those who are not sick enough to be hospitalized, but have pre-existing health conditions that may make them more likely to experience serious health complications from COVID-19.”

It can also be used as post-exposure prevention for those who meet specific criteria and:

- Are not fully vaccinated or unable to mount an adequate immune response to complete COVID 19 vaccination; or,
- Have a high risk of exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19 because of the occurrence of COVID-19 infection in other individuals in the same institutional setting (e.g. nursing homes, corrections facilities). Exposure is defined by the CDC as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 + patient for 15 minutes or more within 24 hours.

According to the product manufacturers, antibody therapy should be administered as soon as possible after a positive COVID-19 test and within 10 days of the onset of symptoms. Potential candidates to receive the treatment include the elderly; those who are obese or overweight; or those with pre-existing conditions; such as diabetes, cardiovascular or kidney disease, neurodevelopmental disorders or compromised immune systems.

The treatment is not authorized for patients who are already hospitalized with COVID-19 or who require oxygen therapy due to the virus. The FDA has granted emergency use authorization for these medicines.

“This treatment does not replace the need for vaccination. Vaccines are still the first line of defense for fighting COVID-19. However, we have used antibody therapy successfully to help our local patients, whether or not they were fully vaccinated,” Dr. Fredrickson advised.

“If you have tested positive for COVID-19 or have a high risk of exposure to an individual infected with COVID-19 and are wondering if this treatment might help, talk with your doctor as soon as possible. Together, you can discuss how the antibody treatment works, what your pre-existing conditions are and if you are a good candidate for this therapy.”

A physician referral is needed in order to receive antibody therapy at Salem Regional Medical Center.