Dear [patient name],

I am writing to inform you of a research project that [clinic name] is taking part in. The **Canadian Adaptive Platform Trial of Treatments for COVID in Community Settings** (**CanTreatCOVID**) aims to evaluate the effectiveness, practical challenges, and outcomes of medications for mild to moderate COVID-19 among non-hospitalized patients in Canada. The project will also study the effectiveness of included medications in reducing long COVID among patients and look at whether outcomes differ by risk, vaccination status, and across diverse populations.

We will be involving ~12,000 patients from across Canada. If you are aged 50+ or 18-49 with 1 or more chronic higher-risk medical condition(s) and/or immunosuppression, this letter was sent to you in case you get infected by COVID-19 over the course of this research project. Your involvement in CanTreatCOVID will include receiving either usual care (i.e., rest, fluids, and symptom relief), or a medication being evaluated in the project. You will be asked to complete a daily diary for 14 days after starting the study medication and a total of 6 surveys, including 1 before you begin the study and 1 each at 21 days, 28 days, 90 days, 36 weeks, 12 months, and 24 months from when you entered the study. You will be compensated for your participation.

CanTreatCOVID has been approved by Health Canada and the Unity Health Toronto Research Ethics Board. The research project will be continuously monitored to ensure that it is safe for patients to participate in.

If you become infected with COVID-19 and started experiencing symptoms within the previous two days, and are interested in participating, please contact [staff name], the research coordinator for this project at [clinic name], at [insert email] or [insert telephone #]. More details on your involvement, and the research project overall, will be provided when you review the informed consent form with the research coordinator.

If you would like to find out more about the project, please review the FAQs below, or visit [www.CanTreatCOVID.org](http://www.CanTreatCOVID.org).

Thank you for considering this important study,

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| [**Name of provider**] | **Andrew Pinto, MD CCFP FRCP MSc** |
| [Clinic] | Staff Physician and Scientist |
|  | Department of Family and Community Medicine |
|  | St. Michael’s Hospital |
|  | Principal Investigator, CanTreatCOVID Study |

**Canadian Adaptive Platform Trial of Treatments for COVID in Community Settings** (**CanTreatCOVID**)

**What is the CanTreatCOVID study?**

Vaccines and public health measures such as masking have reduced the impact of COVID-19 and prevented health systems from being overwhelmed. However, reduced vaccine effectiveness against new variants and reduced vaccine effectiveness against future strains remains a significant concern. Most treatments currently approved in Canada require IV infusion, are expensive, and are usually only given to patients who are hospitalized or in specialized clinics. More and more patients, including those at higher risk of becoming severely ill, choose to seek care in community settings, however current evidence supporting medications that can be administered to patients in these settings is weak and limited. Effective, safe, convenient, affordable, and evidence-based medications that can be used in communities with high vaccination rates to limit the severity of COVID-19 infection, reduce hospitalizations and death, and reduce short- and long-term symptoms remain urgently needed.

Adaptive platform trials (APTs) compare multiple medications for a condition while allowing new medications to be added or removed as the project progresses. CanTreatCOVID will compare the effectiveness of up to three medications amongst each other and to usual care ((i.e., rest, fluids, and symptom relief). Medications to be evaluated in the research project will be determined by a transparent Canadian COVID-19 Out-Patient Therapeutics Committee based on interim findings, any newly published data from Canadian or international research projects, and integration of results from international studies.

The purpose of this study is to:

1. Establish an APT to evaluate the effectiveness practical challenges, and outcomes of medications for COVID-19 among non-hospitalized patients in Canada.
2. Generate evidence on medication effectiveness and outreach to communities made vulnerable by social and economic policies, particularly those historically excluded from research.
3. Provide rapid evidence to inform clinical and health system management and public health leaders, decision-makers, and planners within Canada and internationally.

**Who would be eligible for this study?**

Patients who are 50+ or 18-49 with 1 or more chronic higher-risk medical condition(s) and/or immunosuppression. Participants must have a positive COVID-19 (PCR or RAT) test and be enrolled within 5 days of symptom onset.

**Are these medications offered to patients outside of the study?**

Current Canadian guidelines identify only fluvoxamine, budesonide, and PaxlovidTM as potential out-patient medications for COVID-19. Three major problems are faced by clinicians, patients, decision makers, and public health leaders:

1. Almost all published trials have included only unvaccinated patients. It is unclear whether and to what extent existing medications are effective in partially or fully vaccinated patients, or among those who have previously been infected with COVID-19.
2. Medications have not been compared to one another, therefore it is unknown how they compare in terms of effectiveness, safety, and cost.
3. Currently, no medication has been evaluated specifically for its potential in reducing the likelihood of long COVID.

**What is the time commitment required from you?**

Each survey and the daily diary will take about 30 minutes to complete.

**Who is conducting the research study?**

This study is led by Dr. Andrew Pinto, the founder and director of the [Upstream Lab](https://upstreamlab.org/) at St. Michael’s Hospital (SMH) in Toronto, Ontario. He is a public health and preventive medicine specialist and family physician, and a Scientist at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at SMH. Dr. Pinto is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, appointed to the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and has status appointments at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Institute for Health, Policy, Management and Evaluation. He serves as the Associate Director for Clinical Research at the University of Toronto Practice-Based Research Network.

**I’m interested! How do I take part?**

If you are eligible and interested in participating in the research project, please email [insert name] at [insert email]. We will then be in touch as soon as possible!

**Additional questions?**

Please contact [insert name] at [insert email] or visit [www.CanTreatCOVID.org](http://www.CanTreatCOVID.org).