January 3, 2022

Dear Therapeutic Provider:

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) would like to provide information and resources regarding the use of monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of COVID-19.

Currently, the CDC estimates that Texas and surrounding states (Region 6) have greater than 85% prevalence of the Omicron variant. Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab (BAM/ETE) and REGEN-COV (REG) are NOT effective in the treatment of patients infected with the Omicron variant. Sotrovimab remains effective against all variants of concern, including Omicron, but is currently in limited supply.

Providers requesting BAM/ETE and REG as therapeutic options should ensure that there is laboratory evidence that the patient is NOT infected by the Omicron variant. If a provider would like to request a quantity of BAM/ETE and REG to have on hand to treat a patient that is NOT infected by the Omicron variant according to laboratory evidence, please contact DSHS at therapeutics@dshs.texas.gov.

Providers are encouraged to review the updated Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Health Care Provider Fact Sheets for BAM/ETE and REGEN-COV as they contain specific information regarding expected activity against the Omicron variant. Additionally, please continue to assess local data and review current National Institutes of Health (NIH) guidelines to help inform treatment decisions. Providers are invited to visit the DSHS COVID-19 Therapeutics webpage along with the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Alert.

DSHS continues to urge Texans to get vaccinated as soon as possible, get a booster shot when eligible, and to use the methods that have proven successful in weathering this epidemic: hand hygiene, distancing, improved ventilation in indoor settings, and the use of a masks in social and public environments.