How are medications selected for the ACTIV-6 study?
ACTIV-6 is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership to develop a coordinated research strategy for prioritizing and speeding up development of the most promising treatments and vaccines for COVID-19.

A selection committee was established to decide which medications to investigate in all ACTIV studies. This 20-member group included academic experts in COVID-19 research and anti-viral medications, members of non-profits supporting COVID-19 research, private-sector industry members, NIH employees, and employees from other U.S. government agencies.

The group identified existing medications for further investigation using pre-established review criteria, data from laboratory and clinical research studies, and safety information.

What are repurposed medications?
The ACTIV-6 study is looking at repurposed medications in the search for effective, safe treatments for people with mild-to-moderate who are not hospitalized. Repurposed medications are those already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat other health conditions, have been shown to be safe in humans, and are being tested for use in treating other conditions such as COVID-19.

Why is this study important?
There are treatments for people with severe COVID-19 who are at high risk for hospitalization or death, but they are complex to administer. Currently, there are no approved prescription medications that can be easily given at home to treat mild-to-moderate symptoms of the virus early in its course to prevent worsening of COVID-19.

What is fluvoxamine?
Fluvoxamine is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, which is used to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder and depression.

Why is this medication part of the ACTIV-6 study?
In the early stages of COVID-19, the virus attacks the body and causes the body’s immune system to react. This immune response results in inflammation that can lead to mild-to-severe symptoms. Previous evidence suggests that fluvoxamine may be able to reduce the increased inflammation due to this virus. Several studies have been completed, including two that are published using different doses. Both studies reported clinical benefits with fluvoxamine, such as fewer patients experiencing clinical worsening of the disease and fewer were at risk for hospitalization.

We need more data about different doses and treatment periods to support the safe use of fluvoxamine maleate as a treatment for non-hospitalized people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19.

The surveys you complete about your COVID-19 symptoms will help to inform the scientific community if fluvoxamine maleate is appropriate for people with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are recovering at home.