When is it safe to discharge a patient with COVID-19 from the hospital? – March 23, 2020

What should be considered when evaluating a patient for safe home discharge?
At this time the CDC has not set forth clear and reliable clinical criteria that ensure discharge readiness. Decisions for discharge must be made on a case by case basis. As testing becomes more available, these criteria may change. When evaluating patients with diagnosed or suspected COVID19 disease for discharge, consider the following anticipatory guidance.

- **Clinical criteria that suggest readiness for discharge:**
  - Improving oxygenation/resolving hypoxia
  - Afebrile for >/= 24 hours
  - Improvement of presenting symptoms (cough, myalgias, diarrhea)
  - Stability or improvement in laboratory parameters (LDH, lymphopenia, liver injury)

- **Considerations for home discharge:**
  - Ability to wear a mask
  - The patient has appropriate caregivers at home
  - The patient has a separate bedroom with they can recover without sharing immediate spaces with others
  - The patient and household members are able to perform personal hygiene, cough etiquette, and hand hygiene
  - The patient does not have household members who may be at increased risk of complications from COVID-19 infection (people age >65, young children, pregnant women, people who are immunocompromised or who have chronic heart, lung, or kidney conditions)
  - Close contacts can monitor their health and contact a healthcare provider if they develop symptoms
  - The ability to prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home
  - Contacts can avoid sharing household items

- **Current home isolation recommendations:**
  - People should adhere to home isolation until the risk of secondary transmission is thought to be low. The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case by case basis.
  - Patients should remain in home isolation until they are fever free for three days without medications to reduce fever AND other symptoms of cough and shortness of breath have improved, AND it has been at least 7 days since the onset of symptoms.