

Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions-Home and Community Based Services 11/06/20 1000

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Standard Work Activity Sheet		Author: Kathy Michael	Rev. Date: 3/20/2020; 5/8/2020; 8/25/2020, 11/6/2020
Step:	Purpose: COVID-19 Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions	Value Stream:	

Seq. No	Task Description:	Key Point / Image / Measure (what good looks like)	Who
1.	People with COVID-19 who have stayed home (are home isolated) can stop home isolation under the following conditions:		
2.	Symptom Based Strategy This will be the typical way isolation will discontinue in the home environment. Coordinate with the provider regarding discontinuation of isolation methodology.		
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symptom-based criteria were modified as follows: At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset and At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and Other symptoms have improved. <p>*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant</p>	<p>Best Practice Safety and Infection Control Guidance as of 7/20/2020:</p> <p>Accumulating evidence supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy. Specifically, researchers have reported that people with mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after their symptoms began, and those with more severe illness or those who are severely immunocompromised remain infectious no longer than 20 days after their symptoms began.</p>	Clinician, with collaboration with physician

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	<p>extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset. Consider consultation with infection control experts or the patient's physician.</p> <p>Persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.</p>		
Role of Testing for Discontinuing Isolation or Precautions:			
4.	<p>RT-PCR testing for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA for discontinuing isolation could be considered for persons who are severely immunocompromised¹, in consultation with infectious disease experts or the patient's physician.</p>	<p>For all others, a test-based strategy is no longer recommended except to discontinue isolation or other precautions earlier than would occur under the symptom-based strategy outlined above.</p>	
5.	<p>All test results should be final before isolation is ended.</p>	<p>Testing guidance is based upon limited information and is subject to change as more information becomes available. In persons with a persistent productive cough, SARS-CoV-2-RNA might be detected for longer periods in sputum specimens than in respiratory specimens</p>	

Note that recommendations for discontinuing isolation in persons known to be infected with COVID-19 could, in some circumstances, appear to conflict with recommendations on when to discontinue quarantine for persons known to have been **exposed** to COVID-19. CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine **after exposure** based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected. Thus, it is possible that a person *known* to be infected could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined because of the *possibility* they are infected.

These recommendations will prevent most, but cannot prevent all, instances of secondary spread. The best available evidence suggests that recovered persons can continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA in upper respiratory specimens for up to 3 months after illness onset, albeit at concentrations considerably lower than during illness, in ranges where replication-competent virus has not been reliably recovered and infectiousness is unlikely. Studies have not found evidence that clinically recovered persons with persistence of viral RNA have transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to others.

[Reference](#)

Updated CDC Guidance July 20, 2020 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>