

Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions (COVID-19)

CLINICAL GUIDELINE

08/28/20

SCOPE

This applies to patients with COVID-19 who are hospitalized or need to return to a healthcare setting.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Transmission-based precautions should only be discontinued if the primary clinician deems it necessary for the patient's care.
- Patients who do not meet the following clinical criteria and minimum timeframe should be discussed with Infectious Disease or Infection Prevention to determine if discontinuing transmission-based precautions is appropriate and the best strategy to use.
- Recovered patients with documented COVID-19 should not be retested if presenting back to care within the first 90 days after recovery. If presenting beyond this timeframe, please consult Infectious Disease to determine if testing is appropriate.
- Patients undergoing aerosol-generating procedures should refer to the *Pre-Procedure Guidelines for COVID-19-Positive Patients* for additional recommendations. The timeframe for returning to care under these circumstances has been modified to account for patient safety during the procedure.

Severity of Illness	Clinical Criteria	Minimum Timeframe*
Mild illness: Any signs or symptoms except evidence of lower respiratory infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afebrile for > 24 hours without the use of antipyretics • Improvement in all symptoms related to COVID-19 	10 days
Moderate illness: Evidence of lower respiratory infection by clinical assessment or imaging, and SpO ₂ ≥ 92%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afebrile for > 24 hours without the use of antipyretics • Improvement in all symptoms related to COVID-19 	10 days
Severe illness: Evidence of tachypnea, SpO ₂ < 92% or > 3% change from baseline, PaO ₂ /FiO ₂ < 255 mmHg, lung infiltrates > 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afebrile > 72 hours without the use of antipyretics • Sustained improvement in oxygen requirements • Stable for discharge or discharged from hospital 	20 days
Critical illness: Respiratory failure, septic shock, and/or multiple organ dysfunction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afebrile > 72 hours without the use of antipyretics • Extubated with continued improvement in oxygen requirements • Stable for transfer or discharge, or discharged from hospital 	20 days
Severe immunocompromise: Examples include HIV with CD4 < 200, solid organ transplant, stem cell transplant, chronic steroid (> 20 mg/day prednisone equivalent and > 14 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies for any severity of illness 	Consult with Infectious Disease
Asymptomatic infection: No signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 for at least 7 days since + SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must not develop symptoms during the specified time period 	10 days

*For symptomatic patients, the timeframe starts from first day of symptoms. For asymptomatic patients, the timeframe begins on the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

➔ See reference links on [page 2](#).

REFERENCES

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html)

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html)

[covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/management-of-covid-19/](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/management-of-covid-19/)