

Criteria for Discontinuing Client/Patient Isolation

A COVID-19 test is no longer recommended by the CDC because, in the majority of cases, it results in prolonged isolation of patients and clients who continue to shed the virus but are no longer infectious. The updated criteria include the following.

1. **Patients or clients infected with COVID-19 who have symptoms** may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:
 - 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
2. **Patients or clients infected with COVID-19 Infection who never develop symptoms** may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive PCR (swab) test
3. **Patients or clients infected with COVID-19 who experienced severe illness or symptoms** should remain isolated:
 - For 20 days after symptom first appeared, and
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
 - Other symptoms have improved

Additional information regarding Quarantine:

Please note that recommendations for discontinuing *isolation* in persons known to be infected with COVID-19 (above) may appear to be in conflict with recommendations for when to discontinue *quarantine* for clients known to have been exposed to COVID-19.

The CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after an exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected. 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.

Please contact your Director, Clinical Practice or the Outbreak Committee with questions.

Please also see [COVID-19 Quarantine vs Isolation](#) for definitions of isolation and quarantine