

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.

After an exposure, the CDC recommends a quarantine of 10 days.

Note: Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to [quarantine](#) if they meet all of the following criteria[†]:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ two weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose series, or ≥ two weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
- Are within three months following receipt of the last dose in the series
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure

Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

After stopping quarantine, employees should:

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If they have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact their local public health authority or healthcare provider.
- Wear a mask, stay at least six feet from others, wash their hands, avoid crowds, and take other steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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

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