

Criteria for Discontinuing Client/Patient Isolation Protocol

The CDC has established criteria to be used to determine when it is safe to discontinue isolation precautions. Below, you will find two scenarios: with and without testing capability.

If COVID-19 laboratory testing is not readily available, the non-test-based strategy may be used for discontinuation of isolation precautions.

Where lab testing is not available, isolation may be discontinued when **ALL** the following criteria are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*

Where repeat lab testing is available, isolation precautions may be discontinued when **ALL** the following criteria are met:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)
- Two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens)

Below, you will find links to pertinent CDC guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>