



## **Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions and Discharge Related to COVID-19**

**Purpose:** To provide a reference guide for healthcare providers discontinuing isolation precautions and discharging hospitalized patients with COVID-19.

**Policy:**

- Policy applicable to all COVID-19 or suspected patients.
- Patients suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 will be placed on Droplet and Contact Isolation.
- If admitted, place a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 in a single-person room with the door closed.
- In general, airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (AIIRs) should be reserved for patients who will be undergoing aerosol-generating procedures.
- Patients status post a positive COVID-19 test can be discharged from a healthcare facility whenever clinically indicated. Meeting criteria for discontinuation of isolation precautions is not a prerequisite for discharge.

**INITIAL POSITIVE COVID TEST: (Non-test-based strategy) Discontinuation of isolation precautions can occur when at least 72 hours has passed since recovery:**

Recovery is defined as:

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications  
**And**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath),  
**And**
- At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**INITIAL NEGATIVE COVID RESULT: Discontinuation of isolation precautions**

1. No other COVID test required
2. D/C COVID isolation. Continue droplet precautions if needed based on patient symptoms (e.g. flu).



### Discharge of Patients with COVID-19

- Physician will discharge patient from the healthcare facility whenever clinically indicated.
- If patient in isolation at time of discharge due COVID suspect or known:
  1. If medication needed from the MLH pharmacy, coordinate with pharmacy so that a visit to the MLH pharmacy is NOT required by the patient or family. This includes med to bed process or curbside delivery.
  2. Notify family of discharge and what time to arrive at hospital.
  3. Instruct family not to enter the hospital unless in-person care training required (e.g. tube feeding training, other device care, or other training needed for caregiver).
  4. Place surgical mask on patient.
  5. Place clean sheet over patient for transport.
  6. Patient should be transported directly to car and not go to other locations in hospital (e.g. such as pharmacy, cafeteria).

#### If discharged to home:

- Home isolation should be maintained if the patient returns home before discontinuation of isolation precautions.
- The decision to send the patient home should be made in consultation with the patient's clinical care team and local or state public health departments.

#### If discharged to a long-term care or assisted living facility:

- Communicate to the accepting facility continued need for Isolation as appropriate.
- If isolation precautions have been discontinued, but the patient has persistent symptoms from COVID-19 (e.g., persistent cough), they should be placed in a single room, be restricted to their room until resolution of symptoms.
- If isolation precautions have been discontinued and the patient's symptoms have resolved, the patient does not require further restrictions, based upon history of COVID-19.

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