Removal of COVID-19 Isolation Precautions

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Discharge Home of Inpatients with COVID-19

- Patients can be discharged home to a **private residence** whenever clinically indicated.
- If at time of discharge the patient remains on COVID precautions, he/she should continue to self-isolate at home until the following criteria are met:
  - **SYMPTOM-BASED STRATEGY:**
    - **Had COVID-19 symptoms** at the time of first positive test: At least 10 days have passed since positive COVID-19 viral test **AND** resolved fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications for 3 days) **AND** improvement in systems (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
  - **TIME-BASED STRATEGY:**
    - **Did not have COVID-19 symptoms** at the time of first positive test: At least 10 days have passed since first positive test **AND** no subsequent symptoms have developed since first positive test.
- Repeat COVID-19 testing is **not needed** for patients being discharged home to a **private residence**.

*Please include discharge education in AVS for COVID-19 patients regarding self-isolating from household contacts until above criteria are met.*

Removal of COVID Precautions for Known COVID-19 Patients who Remain Hospitalized

- Patients can be removed from COVID precautions after 28 days have passed since positive COVID-19 viral test. Please call HEIC to remove precautions.
- Patients can be removed from COVID precautions before 28 days have passed if the following criteria are met:
  - **Had COVID-19 symptoms** at the time of first positive test: Symptoms completely resolved (returned to baseline) **AND** the reason for ongoing hospitalization is unrelated to COVID-19.
  
  OR
Had COVID-19 symptoms at time of positive test: Resolved fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications for 3 days) AND improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath for patients not requiring mechanical ventilation and FiO₂ ≤ 40% and PEEP ≤ 5 cm H₂O for patients requiring mechanical ventilation) AND negative results of COVID-19 tests from at least 2 consecutive specimens collected ≥24 hours apart**.

OR

Did not have COVID-19 symptoms at time of first positive test: 10 days have passed since date of first positive COVID-19 test AND no subsequent symptoms developed AND negative results of COVID-19 tests from at least 2 consecutive specimens collected ≥24 hours apart**.

** Eligible specimens include nasopharyngeal swab, BAL, tracheal aspirate, or good quality sputum sample. If patient has a tracheostomy, one of the respiratory specimens must be a tracheal aspirate.

- If patients have improved but have persistent respiratory symptoms, and meet criteria for removal of COVID-19 precautions and are removed, place them in a private room on droplet precautions.

- If patient previously met criteria for removal from COVID-19 precautions and later has new symptoms and is re-tested, place in negative pressure room and contact HEIC.

Transfer from a JHHS Hospital to Inpatient Rehab Facility, Psychiatry Inpatient Setting, Long Term Care Facility, Group Home, Dialysis Center or Other Institutional Setting

- At the time of transfer, the patient should meet requirements for removal of COVID precautions unless the patient is going to a setting that is specifically equipped to manage patients with COVID-19.

- COVID-19 patient flags are automatically removed (flag drops in Epic) after 28 days have passed since the most recent positive test.

- Please call HEIC to remove from COVID precautions before 28 days have passed if the following criteria are met:
  
  o **Had COVID-19 symptoms** at the time of first positive test: Completely resolved symptoms (returned to baseline) AND the reason for ongoing hospitalization is unrelated to COVID-19.

  OR

  o **Had COVID-19 symptoms** at time of positive test: Resolved fever (without the use of fever-reducing medications for 3 days) AND improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath for patients not requiring mechanical ventilation and FiO₂ ≤ 40% and
PEEP ≤ 5 cm H₂O for patients requiring mechanical ventilation) **AND** negative results of COVID-19 tests from at least 2 consecutive specimens collected ≥24 hours apart**.

**OR**

- **Did not have COVID-19 symptoms** at time of first positive test; 10 days have passed since date of first positive COVID-19 test **AND** no subsequent symptoms developed **AND** negative results of COVID-19 tests from at least 2 consecutive specimens collected ≥24 hours apart**.

**Eligible specimens include nasopharyngeal swab, BAL, tracheal aspirate, or good quality sputum sample. If patient has a tracheostomy, one of the respiratory specimens must be a tracheal aspirate.**

- If patients have improved but persistent respiratory symptoms, and meet criteria for removal of COVID precautions and are removed, place them in a private room on droplet precautions.

*Note: These criteria will be reviewed regularly to align with bed allocation, prioritization and resources.*

**Return of Patients Confirmed to Have COVID-19 to Ambulatory Clinics or Facilities**

- Refer to the Guidance for the Return of Patients Confirmed to Have COVID-19 to Ambulatory Clinics or Facilities document on the HEIC intranet: [https://intranet.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/heic/_docs/2019-nCoV_ambulatory_confirmed_returning_to_facility.pdf](https://intranet.insidehopkinsmedicine.org/heic/_docs/2019-nCoV_ambulatory_confirmed_returning_to_facility.pdf)