

Guidelines for Discontinuation of Transmission Based Precautions for Patients Who Have Recovered from COVID-19

The CDC has issued updated guidance on the Discontinuation of Transmission-Based precautions for patients with COVID-19 infection¹. Although SARS-CoV2-RNA PCR testing may remain positive for prolonged periods after initial infection this does not necessarily represent shedding of live, infectious virus. Accumulating evidence supports ending isolation and precautions for persons with COVID-19 using a symptom-based strategy and a retesting strategy is no longer recommended.

For COVID-19 patients hospitalized at UConn Health, the current recommended duration for Transmission-Based Precautions is 20 days from the date of the first positive test. Repeat testing is *not needed* to discontinue COVID-19 precautions among hospitalized patients.

Symptom/Time-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions²

General Criteria for Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for Hospitalized Patients³

- At least 20 days have passed *since the first positive SARS-COV-2 RNA PCR test* **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

For patients on transmission-based precautions for another indication (ex. *C. difficile*, MRSA), the patient can transition from COVID-19 precautions to that of the other organism of concern. Important: Prior to discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for a patient who tested positive for COVID-19, the **Department of Epidemiology must be called to review the case and make final approval for discontinuation of precautions**. Epidemiology can be reached through the Hospital Operator.

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1 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

2 Select patients with mild illness or asymptomatic patients who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 may be eligible for discontinuation of Transmission Based precautions 10 days after the first positive SARS-CoV-2 RNA PCR test on a case by case basis. Please call the Department of Epidemiology to review the case to determine whether precautions can be discontinued prior to 20 days post-test.

3 Patients with severe immunocompromising conditions (stem cell or solid organ transplant recipients, Immunosuppressive drugs (ex. cancer chemotherapy, chronic steroids, TNF alpha inhibitors, immunomodulators), Inherited immunodeficiency, HIV Infection with CD4 count < 200) should be handled on a case-by-case basis with consultation from Infection Control/Infectious Diseases