

Updated Duration of Isolation and Precautions, and Interval to Consider Retesting

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Erin Epton, Medical Director & Chief
Healthcare-Associated Infections Program
Center for Health Care Quality

CDC Guidance Updates

- Duration and recommended strategies for discontinuation of isolation and precautions for patients/residents and return to work for infected healthcare personnel
- Timeframe for when retesting of previously positive individuals can be considered

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

CDC No Longer Recommends Test-Based Strategy

- **Test-based strategy** for discontinuation of isolation and precautions/return-to-work **no longer recommended**
 - except for persons who are severely immunocompromised (e.g., currently receiving chemotherapy, or recent organ transplant)
 - **Symptoms/time-based strategy** for most individuals
 - 10 days after symptoms onset (or date of positive test for asymptomatic individuals) with lack of fever and improving symptoms for 24 hours (instead of 72 hours)
 - 20 days for severe/critical illness or severe immunocompromise
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Timeframe for Considering Retesting of Previously Positive Residents and HCP

- Residents and HCP who had their initial positive viral test in the past **3 months (previously 8 weeks)** and are now asymptomatic do not need to be retested as part of facility-wide testing
- Retesting should be considered (e.g., in response to an exposure) if it is **3 months (previously 8 weeks)** after the date of onset of the prior infection

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html>

Previously Infected Individuals with New Symptoms

- New symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the 3 months after the date of initial symptom onset:
 - Consider alternative etiologies; if no alternative etiology identified, then consider retesting in consultation with infectious disease or infection control experts
- Also consider empiric isolation and transmission based precautions during this evaluation in consultation with an infection control expert
 - Especially if symptoms develop within 14 days after close contact with an infected person