



Arkansas Department of Health

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Guidelines for Discontinuation of Isolation Precautions in Patients with COVID-19 Infection

Limited information is available to characterize the spectrum of clinical illness, transmission efficiency, and the duration of viral shedding for patients with COVID-19. Interim guidance for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions (or isolation precautions) and disposition of hospitalized patients has been developed based on available information about COVID-19 and what is known about similar diseases caused by related coronaviruses (MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV). This guidance is subject to change as additional information becomes available.

For Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19 Under Transmission-Based Precautions:

- The decision to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions for hospitalized patients with COVID-19 should be made on a **case-by-case basis** in consultation with clinicians, infection prevention and control specialists, and public health officials. This decision should consider disease severity, illness signs and symptoms, and results of laboratory testing for COVID-19 in respiratory specimens. Considerations to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions include **ALL** of the following:
 - Resolution of fever, without use of antipyretic medication
 - Improvement in illness signs and symptoms
 - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least **ONE** nasopharyngeal swab specimen **OR** 14 days after resolution of all symptoms; whichever is longer

Disposition of Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19:

- Patients can be discharged from the healthcare facility whenever clinically indicated.
- **Isolation should be maintained at home if the patient returns home before the decision is made to discontinue Transmission-Based 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 and should **include considerations of the home's suitability for and patient's ability to adhere to home isolation recommendations, and potential risk of secondary transmission to household members with immunocompromising conditions.**

For Patients with COVID-19 Under In-Home Isolation:

Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

- 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); **and,**
- At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.