Guide to Removal of Transmission-Based Precautions for Patients with Confirmed COVID-19

For Providers 4/8/20

Patient with confirmed COVID-19 infection

Admitted to the hospital?

NO

YES

- Release from isolation when patient meets CDC’s non-test-based criteria\(^1\)
- Patient should follow careful respiratory and hand hygiene until all symptoms resolved
- Consider additional separation measures at home if high risk household members

- Place patient in a private room if an Airborne Infection Isolation Room (AIIR) is not available.
- AIIR is no longer necessary when patient meets CDC’s non-test-based criteria\(^1\), but maintain in droplet and contact precautions (single room with door shut, can cohort with other COVID+ convalescing patients if needed).
- During aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs) use airborne precautions (N95 mask or CAPR).
- Patient can be discharged once clinically stable

Able to discharge to home setting?

YES

- Discharge home
- Release from isolation when patient meets CDC’s non-test-based criteria\(^1\)
- Patient should follow careful respiratory and hand hygiene until all symptoms resolved
- Consider additional separation measures at home if high risk household members

NO

- Notify OCHCA about discharge plan to facility (SNF, LTCF, RCFE, other congregate living facility); OCHCA will assess facility’s ability to care for patient
- Discharge patient to facility if able to adequately care for patient; if not, look for alternate facility
- Hospital/facility maintains patient in droplet (single room, door closed) and contact precautions for at least 3 weeks after patient met CDC’s non-test-based criteria\(^1\) or until all respiratory symptoms resolved, whichever is longer
- Can cohort COVID+ patients if needed; do not cohort with COVID suspects
- If patient still has significant respiratory symptoms at 3 weeks, either continue droplet precautions until resolution or pursue CDC test-based clearance\(^2\) to remove from droplet precautions

1. CDC Non-test-based strategy:
   - 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.

2. CDC Test-based Strategy:
   - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
   - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
   - Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart