Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care

**Note:** Consult IPC for these decisions. Even when additional precautions can be discontinued from a COVID-19 perspective, patients may need to remain on additional precautions for other reasons according to local health authority IPC guidelines.

**Section A**

**Symptomatic Patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19**

**Symptom-based strategy**

- The patient is not severely immunocompromised* and has mild to moderate COVID-19 illness*
- The patient is severely immunocompromised* or has more severe COVID-19 illness*

**Are all of the following criteria met?**

1. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms* AND
2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
3. Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved*

**Yes**
- Discontinue DCP

**No**
- Maintain DCP

**Test-based strategy**

**Are all of the following criteria met?**

1. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms* AND
2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
3. Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved*

**Yes**
- Implement retesting. (See pg. 3 of guidance document)

**No**
- Maintain DCP

**Are all of the following criteria met?**

1. 20 days* have passed since onset of symptoms* AND
2. Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
3. Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved*

**Yes**
- Have there been 2 consecutive negative NP specimens collected at least 24 hours apart?
  - Yes
    - Maintain DCP
  - No
    - No

**No**
- If a repeat test result is positive, refer to local institutional guidelines, or consult MM, ID, and/or IPC for guidance on when to re-test*.
  - Measure
  - Maintain DCP

---

**LEGEND**

- IPC: Infection prevention and control
- DCP: Droplet and contact precautions
- MM: Medical microbiologist
- ID: Infectious disease specialist

* Refer to Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care for more information.
Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care

Note: Consult IPC for these decisions. Even when additional precautions can be discontinued from a COVID-19 perspective, patients may need to remain on additional precautions for other reasons according to local health authority IPC guidelines.

**Section A**

**Asymptomatic Patients**

with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19

**Time-based strategy**

Are all of the following criteria met?

1. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive test for patients who are not severely immunocompromised OR
2. At least 20 days have passed since the date of the first positive test for severely immunocompromised patients AND
3. Symptoms did not develop after the first positive test

Yes

Discontinue DCP

No

Maintain DCP

**Test-based strategy**

Are all of the following criteria met?

1. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the first positive test AND
2. Symptoms did not develop after the initial positive test

Yes

Implement retesting. (See pg. 5 of guidance document)

Have there been 2 consecutive negative NP specimens collected at least 24 hours apart?

Yes

Discontinue DCP

No

Maintain DCP

No

If a repeat test result is positive, refer to local institutional guidelines, or consult MM, ID, and/or IPC.*

Discontinue DCP

**LEGEND**

IPC: Infection prevention and control
DCP: Droplet and contact precautions
MM: Medical microbiologist
NP: Nasopharyngeal
ID: Infectious disease specialist

* Refer to Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care for more information.
Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care

**Note:** Consult IPC for these decisions. Even when additional precautions can be discontinued from a COVID-19 perspective, patients may need to remain on additional precautions for other reasons according to local health authority IPC guidelines.

**Section B**

**Patients suspected of COVID-19 with negative COVID-19 laboratory results**

1. The patient is no longer suspected of having COVID-19
   - Does the patient have risk factors for COVID-19 exposure *(see Appendix A*)
     - Yes
       - Maintain DCP *(see pg. 5 of guidance document)*
     - No
       - Does the patient have an alternative diagnosis requiring AP?
         - Yes
           - Maintain DCP *(see pg. 5 of guidance document)*
         - No
           - Discontinue DCP

2. The patient is still suspected of having COVID-19
   - Clinical suspicion of COVID-19 remains and/or there is a risk factor for COVID-19 exposure *(see Appendix A*)
   - Treat the patient presumptively as a COVID-19 case.
     - Maintain DCP.
   - Duration of AP is determined by time since symptom onset and 14-day incubation period, whichever is longer. *(See pg. 5 of guidance document)*
   - Consult MM, ID and/or IPC to determine if the patient should be retested and to consider other relevant pathogens.

**LEGEND**

- IPC: Infection prevention and control
- AP: Additional precautions
- DCP: Droplet and contact precautions
- MM: Medical microbiologist
- ID: Infectious disease specialist

*Refer to Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care for more information.*
Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care

Note: Consult IPC for these decisions. Even when additional precautions can be discontinued from a COVID-19 perspective, patients may need to remain on additional precautions for other reasons according to local health authority IPC guidelines.

**Section C**

**Indeterminate laboratory results**

- Maintain DCP
- Consult MM, ID and/or IPC for next steps

**LEGEND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPC</td>
<td>Infection prevention and control</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>Droplet and contact precautions</td>
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<td>MM</td>
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</table>
Note: Consult IPC for these decisions. Even when additional precautions can be discontinued from a COVID-19 perspective, patients may need to remain on additional precautions for other reasons according to local health authority IPC guidelines.

**Section D**

Asymptomatic patients (not tested) with risk factors for COVID-19 exposure

Has it been 14 days since last exposure?

- Yes
  - Has the patient remained asymptomatic during this time?*
    - Yes: Discontinue DCP
    - No: If the patient develops symptoms, maintain DCP and test the patient for COVID-19. Based on the testing results, follow guidance from Section A or B.

- No: Maintain DCP

*Refer to Discontinuing Additional Precautions Related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care for more information.