

COVID-19 Clinical Clearance for Inpatients

Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions for inpatients with laboratory confirmed positive or clinically determined presumed positive COVID-19 diagnoses

Laboratory confirmed or clinical diagnosed presumed positive COVID-19 patients will retain a COVID-19 infection flag in the medical record for 40 days past the date of discharge. Early research has shown the longest reported viral shedding of 37 days (Zhou F, et al. Lancet. 2020 Mar 11.). Discontinuation of transmission-based precautions in the inpatient setting prior to 40 days from positive result must satisfy the testing specifications below.

Testing strategy

- Patient must have both:
 - Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, **and**
 - Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath)
- **Then**, send a nasopharyngeal (NP)* swab for SARS-CoV-2-NAT test no earlier than **ten days** after date of positive test (or ten days from date of symptom onset for clinically diagnosed presumed positive patient) and after 72 hours of symptoms resolution, whichever is longer. *BAL specimen is also an acceptable specimen.
 - If the first SARS-CoV-2-NAT test is negative, send a second NP* swab for SARS-CoV-2-NAT at least 24 hours after the first test.
 - If either test is still positive, isolation precautions and COVID-19 designation must be maintained. You may repeat the NP testing every 72 hours as testing allows.
 - If both tests are negative, contact Infection Prevention to resolve the COVID-19 infection flag in the medical record.
 - Patients with a trach are excluded from this guidance, additional information will be forthcoming.

Patients undergoing testing should remain on an inpatient COVID-19 floor or COVID-19 designated room and maintain discussion with transferring provider. Exceptions should be discussed with your local Infectious Diseases service. Appropriate isolation should be maintained until testing strategy is complete and results finalized.

Providers should use the **covid19inptclinicalclearance** dot phrase when utilizing clinical clearance guidance in the inpatient setting.