

Discontinuation of Isolation for Inpatients Infected by SARS-CoV-2

Audience: Clinical staff

Background

VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System will follow [VHA](#) and [CDC](#) guidance for the discontinuation of isolation of persons infected by SARS-CoV-2 (persons with COVID-19). Both VHA and CDC guidance allow for the use of *time-based and symptom-based* or *test-based and symptom-based strategies* to determine when isolation can be discontinued. Neither VHA nor CDC guidance prefers one strategy over the other.

Policy

Discontinuation of isolation for acute care patients

Isolation may be discontinued for acute-care patients infected by SARS-CoV-2 if

A. At least 3 days have passed *since* resolution of fever, if any (without the use of antipyretics)
and

B. There has been improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

AND either

C. **14 days** have passed since the onset of symptoms or time of diagnosis (whichever period is longer) **or**

D. SARS-CoV-2 RNA is undetectable in two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart

BOTH criteria A and B plus EITHER criteria C or D must be satisfied before isolation is discontinued.

Responsible Section/Service: Infectious Disease

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Criteria for discharge of patients to the general population of GLA Community Living Center

Persons infected by SARS-CoV-2 can be discharged into the general population of GLA Community Living Center if

- A. At least 3 days have passed *since* resolution of fever, if any (without the use of antipyretics)
and
- B. There has been improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

AND either

- C. **21 days** have passed since the onset of symptoms or time of diagnosis (whichever period is longer) **or**
- D. SARS-CoV-2 RNA is undetectable in two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart

BOTH criteria A and B plus EITHER criteria C or D must be satisfied before isolation is discontinued.

References

1. Memorandum from Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations (10N). Subject. Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings. May 29, 2020
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings (Interim Guidance). May 2, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

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