



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

July 22, 2020

MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE #14—CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Dear Healthcare Provider,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated criteria for discontinuation of transmission-based precautions for patients and healthcare personnel (HCP) with COVID-19.

Persons with COVID-19: Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions¹ or Determining when HCP can Return to Work

A) Patients and HCP with **mild to moderate illness** who are **not** severely immunocompromised:

- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

For patients and HCP who are **not severely immunocompromised** and who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued and HCP may return to work when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

B) Patients and HCP with **severe to critical illness** or who are **severely immunocompromised²**:

- At least 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

For **severely immunocompromised patients** who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued and HCP may return to work when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html>

² Examples of severely immunocompromised include persons on immunocompromising chemotherapy, uncontrolled HIV infection/AIDS, or other conditions directly impacting immunity; does not include persons in remission with past history of cancer/chemotherapy or persons with low or nondetectable viral load on antiretrovirals for HIV infection.

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Except for rare situations, a test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions or when to allow HCP to return to work.

Persons with SARS-CoV-2 infection have been observed to shed viral RNA for up to 12 weeks. Therefore, re-testing of asymptomatic or recovering persons in the 90 days after illness is not recommended. Any symptoms that develop following initial recovery from SARS-CoV-2 infection should be carefully evaluated for other etiologies (e.g., influenza) with consideration for SARS-CoV-2 reinfection only after such work-up in consultation with an infectious disease expert and especially if symptoms develop after close contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19.³

A handout on Home Isolation and Quarantine is attached for your reference. For further information, visit the CDC’s website: Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings (Interim Guidance) at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html> and Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection (Interim Guidance) at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit HDOH’s COVID-19 webpage at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/> or CDC’s COVID-19 website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

COVID-19 is considered an **URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION**; providers are **required to report any persons suspected to have COVID-19 or any test result positive for COVID-19**. If you have any questions or need to report a patient with suspected/confirmed COVID-19, please contact us at one of the numbers below.

- Oahu (Disease Reporting Line)..... (808) 586-4586
- Maui District Health Office..... (808) 984-8213
- Kauai District Health Office..... (808) 241-3563
- Big Island District Health Office (Hilo)..... (808) 933-0912
- Big Island District Health Office (Kona)..... (808) 322-4877
- After hours on Oahu..... (808) 600-3625
- After hours on neighbor islands.....(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

We appreciate your partnership to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

Sincerely,



Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist

Attachment (correction)

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>

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COVID-19 ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HOME ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

PERSON WITH COVID-19

(Mild to Moderate Illness who is not Severely Immunocompromised)

Must stay home in ISOLATION until:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- Symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

If having ongoing contact, must stay home in QUARANTINE until 14 days after **PERSON WITH COVID-19** is released from ISOLATION

NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACT

Must stay home in QUARANTINE for 14 days after last contact with **PERSON WITH COVID-19**

- Stay separate from others, especially people at higher risk for severe illness
- Self-monitor for symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath)

CONTACTS OF CONTACTS

(Co-workers of **HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS**)

(Spouse, children, household members, co-workers of **NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS**)

If **HOUSEHOLD/NON-HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS** are not symptomatic, **CONTACTS OF CONTACTS** who are healthy are not required to be in QUARANTINE (e.g., may leave household following recommendations for social distancing, cloth face coverings).

ISOLATION: Separates sick people from people who are not sick. People who are in isolation must stay home. In the home, anyone sick should separate themselves from others by staying in a specific “sick” bedroom or space and using a different bathroom. The sick person should wear a face covering if he/she needs to be in contact with others.

QUARANTINE: Separates someone who has been in contact with a person with COVID-19 from others, in case they were infected and become sick. Persons in self-quarantine must stay at home, separate themselves from household members, monitor their health, and wear a face covering if they need to be in contact with others. Quarantine helps limit further spread of COVID-19.

Note: CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure based on the time it takes to develop illness if infected. In some circumstances, it is possible that a person with *known* COVID-19 could leave isolation earlier than a person who is quarantined because of the *possibility* they are infected.