

RELEASING COVID-19 CASES AND CONTACTS FROM ISOLATION AND QUARANTINE

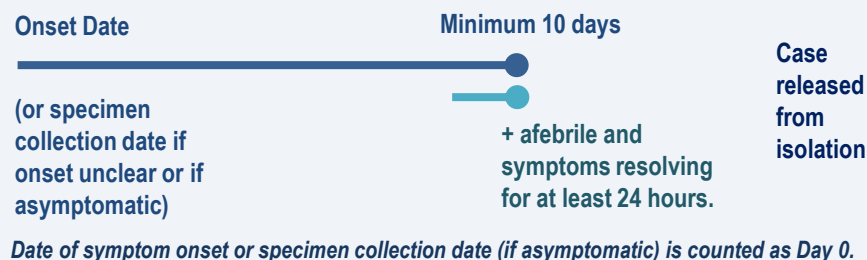
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CASES

Must be isolated for a minimum of 10 days* after symptom onset (or specimen collection date if asymptomatic) and can be released when the following criteria are met:

- Case is afebrile (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours **and** with improvement of COVID-19 symptoms

Time-based Strategy for Release from Isolation



OR

- Case has 2 negative COVID-19 PCR tests in a row, with specimens collected and testing done at least 24 hours apart
- A test-based strategy is no longer recommended in the majority of cases.
Consult with infectious disease physician.

*A limited number of persons with severe illness or who are severely immunosuppressed may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days; this may warrant extending duration of isolation and precautions for **up to 20 days after symptom onset or first positive test (if no symptoms)**.
Consult with the infectious disease physician.

For hospitalized cases and discontinuing transmission-based precautions, see:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

References

- Isolation:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html>
- Quarantine:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>

CLOSE CONTACTS¹

- Must be quarantined for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the case when the case was infectious.
- If a close contact develops symptoms, they should follow isolation rules for cases.

Contact Scenario	Quarantine Period
Has close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and will not have further close contact	14 days from the date of last close contact
Has close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and lives with the case but can avoid further close contact	14 days from when the person with COVID-19 began home isolation away from other members of the household
Is under quarantine and had additional close contact with someone else who has COVID-19	Restart quarantine from the last day close contact occurred with anyone who has COVID-19. Any time a new household member gets sick with COVID-19 and close contact occurs, quarantine will need to be restarted.
Lives with someone who has COVID-19 and cannot avoid continued close contact (e.g., shared kitchen/bathroom)	Quarantine for 14 days after the person who has COVID-19 meets the <u>criteria to end home isolation</u> (see Cases information).
Was previously diagnosed with COVID-19 but did not undergo SARS-CoV-2 testing and is now a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case	Quarantine for 14 days from the date of last close contact to the COVID-19 case. <u>Antibody</u> testing results are not considered when determining quarantine status.

¹ For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the case is isolated. For additional information, see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

Guidance for Healthcare Worker Contacts:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assessment-hcp.html>

Guidance for Critical Workers in Essential Infrastructure:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/critical-workers/implementing-safety-practices.html>