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Date: July 29, 2020

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Updated Isolation Guidance for COVID Positive Cases and When to Consider a Former COVID-19 Positive a New Positive

Guidance on discontinuation of isolation

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated the guidance for discontinuing isolation outside of healthcare settings. The key changes are

- Resolution of fever without use of antipyretics reduced to “at least 24 hours” from the previous “at least 72 hours,” minimum 10 days from onset of symptoms still required.
- Symptom based strategy is now preferred over test based strategy, due to prolonged shedding of SARS-CoV-2 RNA not associated with infectivity and the need to prioritize testing for diagnostic purposes.

Links to the detailed guidance and rationale:

- [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID -19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Assessing Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#)

Guidance on quarantine of individuals previously infected with COVID-19

A person who has clinically recovered from COVID-19 and then is identified as a contact of a new case within 3 months of symptom onset of their most recent illness does not need to be quarantined or retested for SARS-CoV-2. However, if a person is identified as a contact of a new case 3 months or more after symptom onset, they should follow quarantine recommendations for contacts.

- Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Patients-with-Persistent-or-Recurrent-Positive-Tests>