

Discontinuing Additional Precautions in Patients with Suspected COVID-19 or on Self-Isolation due to risk factors for COVID-10 Exposure

Scenario	Discontinuation Criteria
Asymptomatic patient on self-isolation (not suspected of having COVID-29)	14 day self-isolation period is complete ^{1,2}
Suspect COVID-19 patient without risk factors for COVID-19 exposure	NP swab is negative for COVID-19 ^{2,3} AND COVID-19 infection is no longer suspected ⁴ AND Criteria in the " Discontinuing Additional Precautions in Admitted Adults " or " Discontinuing Additional Precautions for Admitted Pediatric Patients " is met
Suspect COVID-19 patient WITH risk factors for COVID-19 exposure	NP swab is negative for COVID-19 ^{2,4} AND COVID-19 infection is no longer suspected ⁴ AND Criteria in the " Discontinuing Additional Precautions in Admitted Adults " or " Discontinuing Additional Precautions for Admitted Pediatric Patients " is met AND 14 day self-Isolation period is complete ¹

1 If they were directed to self-isolate by Public Health, 811 or primary care provider

2 Patients must also meet the criteria in the "[Discontinuing Additional Precautions in Admitted Adults](#)" or "[Discontinuing Additional Precautions for Admitted Pediatric Patients](#)".

3 Where clinical suspicion remains high and NP swab is negative, collection of specimens from the lower respiratory tract where readily available (throat/oropharyngeal swab, sputum ETT, sputum expectorated, bronchoscopy) may be considered.

4 If clinical suspicion of COVID-19 remains, maintain Additional Precautions until appropriate time after symptoms onset (see confirmed case info). Consult Medical Microbiology/Infectious Diseases and/or IPAC to determine if the patient should be retested and to consider other relevant pathogens.

5 If unable to determine symptom onset, use date of initial positive COVID result

6 Note: Improvement does not necessarily apply to pre-existing or chronic respiratory symptoms known to be caused by another etiology. Coughing may persist for several weeks and does not mean the patient is infectious and must remain on additional precautions, providing that the patient is afebrile and other symptoms have improved.

7 Some conditions, such as being treated with chemotherapy for cancer, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count < 200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, and receipt of prednisone > 20 mg/day for more than 14 days, may cause a higher degree of immunocompromise. Other factors, such as advanced age, diabetes, or end-stage renal disease, may pose a much lower degree of immunocompromise and not clearly affect decisions about duration of isolation. Ultimately, the degree of immunocompromise is determined on a case-by-case basis by the health care provider most familiar with the client's medical status.

8 More severe illness (e.g. tachypnea, hypoxemia, reduced PaO₂/FIO₂, lung infiltrates > 50%, or admission to the ICU). The severity and the minimum period of isolation is determined by the Medical Health Officer, medical microbiologist, infectious disease specialist, IPC, and/or the health care provider most familiar with the patient's medical status. For a small number of individuals within these groups (~ 2%), live viral shedding may extend beyond 20 days, with the maximum known duration being 32 days.

Once Additional Precautions are discontinued, the patient can be transferred from a COVID Cohort Unit to another hospital ward, be transferred to Long Term Care or home with HCC supports. No test of cure is required.

Patients can be discharged home without meeting criteria if they no longer require medical care and are able to self-isolate at home. See separate discharge guidelines.

Risk Factors for COVID-19 Exposure

In the last 14 days has: returned from travel outside of Canada **OR** been in close contact with anyone diagnosed with lab confirmed COVID-19 **OR** lived/ worked in a setting that is part of a COVID-19 outbreak **OR** been advised to self-isolate at home by public health.

Fever NYD: Fever greater than 37.5C with no identified cause.

Discontinuing Additional Precautions related to COVID-19 for Admitted Patients in Acute Care

