

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

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State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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## Discontinuation of Transmission-based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Long-term Care Facilities July 20, 2020

This is a summary of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

### Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions.

*Patients 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 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

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

*Patients with [severe to critical illness](#) or who are [severely immunocompromised](#):*

- 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 (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Note: For [severely immunocompromised](#) patients who were **asymptomatic** throughout their infection, Transmission-Based Precautions may be discontinued when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

### Test-Based Strategy for Discontinuing Transmission-Based Precautions.

In some instances, a test-based strategy could be considered for discontinuing Transmission-based Precautions. However, as described in the [Decision Memo](#), many individuals will have prolonged viral shedding, limiting the utility of this approach. A test-based strategy could also be considered for some patients (e.g., those who are severely immunocompromised<sup>1</sup>) in consultation with local infectious diseases experts if concerns exist for the patient being infectious for more than 20 days.

## **Discontinuation of empiric Transmission-Based Precautions for patients suspected of having COVID-19:**

The decision to discontinue empiric [Transmission-Based Precautions](#) by excluding the diagnosis of COVID-19 for a suspected COVID-19 patient can be made based upon having negative results from at least one respiratory specimen tested using an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA.

- If a higher level of clinical suspicion for COVID-19 exists, consider maintaining Transmission-Based Precautions and performing a second test for SARS-CoV-2 RNA.
- If a patient suspected of having COVID-19 is never tested, the decision to discontinue Transmission-Based Precautions can be made based upon using the *symptom-based strategy* described above.

Ultimately, clinical judgement and suspicion of SARS-CoV-2 infection determine whether to continue or discontinue empiric Transmission-Based Precautions.

If the patient had COVID-19 ruled out and have an alternate diagnosis (e.g., tested positive for influenza), criteria for discontinuation of precautions should be based on that diagnosis.

### **Disposition of Patients with COVID-19:**

If discharged to home:

- Isolation should be maintained at home if the patient returns home before discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions. The decision to send the patient home should be made in consultation with the patient's clinical care team and local or state public health departments. It should include considerations of the home's suitability for and patient's ability to adhere to home isolation recommendations. Guidance on [implementing home care of persons who do not require hospitalization](#) and the [discontinuation of home isolation for persons with COVID-19](#) is available.

If discharged to a nursing home or other long-term care facility (e.g., assisted living facility), AND

- Transmission-Based Precautions *are still required*, they should go to a facility with an ability to adhere to infection prevention and control recommendations for the care of COVID-19 patients. Preferably, the patient would be placed in a location designated to care for COVID-19 residents.
- Transmission-Based Precautions *have been discontinued* the patient does not require further restrictions, based upon their history of COVID-19.