

COVID-19 Return to Epic Care Criteria for Patients & Staff with Confirmed COVID-19

PATIENTS

Except for rare situations, the CDC no longer recommends a test-based strategy to determine when a patient is cleared to return to clinic after testing positive for COVID-19. The CDC has made this change because, in the majority of cases, it results in prolonged isolation of patients who continue to test positive for the virus, but who are no longer infectious.

SYMPTOM BASED STRATEGY

1. Patients with mild to moderate illnesses **but are not severely immunocompromised**:
 - a. At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
 - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Patients who are **not severely immunocompromised** and who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive test.

2. Patients with severe to critical illnesses, or **who are immunocompromised**:
 - a. At least 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
 - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

Immunocompromised patients who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

TEST BASED STRATEGY

A test-based strategy could also be considered for some patients (e.g., those who are severely immunocompromised) in consultation with infectious diseases experts if concerns exist for the patient being infectious for more than 20 days.

1. Patients who are symptomatic:
 - a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - b. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved, **AND**
 - c. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart.
2. Patients who are not symptomatic:
 - a. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart.

ALL STAFF

The CDC no longer recommends (except in rare situations) a test-based strategy in determining when Healthcare Personnel (HCP) can return to work.

SYMPTOM BASED STRATEGY

1. HCP with mild to moderate illness who are **not immunocompromised**:
 - a. At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
 - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

HCP who are **not immunocompromised** and **always asymptomatic** may return to work when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive test.

2. HCP with severe to critical illness or who are **immunocompromised**:
 - a. At least 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
 - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last fever* without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved

HCP who are **immunocompromised** but who were **always asymptomatic** may return to work when at least 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

TEST BASED STRATEGY

In some instances, a test-based strategy could be considered to allow HCP to return to work earlier than if the symptom-based strategy were used. However, the CDC warns that many individuals will have prolonged viral shedding resulting in a positive test result, limiting the utility of this approach. A test-based strategy could also be considered for some HCP (e.g., those who are immunocompromised) in consultation with infectious diseases experts if concerns exist for the HCP being infectious for more than 20 days. The criteria for the test-based strategy are:

1. HCP who are symptomatic:
 - a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
 - b. Improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **AND**
 - c. Results are negative from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart.
2. HCP who are not symptomatic:
 - a. Results are negative from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart.

RETURN TO WORK PRACTICES & WORK RESTRICTIONS

After returning to work, HCP must:

1. 14 days following the HCP return to work, he/she must wear a facemask at all times while in the facility, only removing it when outside of the building. A facemask instead of a cloth face covering should be used by these HCP for during this time period.
2. Self-monitor for symptoms, and seek re-evaluation if symptoms recur or worsen.