

Acute Care

Discontinuation of Contact and Droplet Precautions for Suspected or Confirmed Viral Respiratory Infection [including COVID-19]

*See box below if using alternate diagnosis to discontinue Contact and Droplet Precautions for COVID-19.

1. What is patient's COVID-19 test result?

☐ Pending



☐ Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions until result available; **restart at question 1**

☐ Indeterminate



☐ Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions
☐ Repeat swab; **restart at question 1**

☐ COVID-19 POSITIVE → **go to Page 2**

☐ COVID-19 NEGATIVE *regardless of other respiratory virus results* → **go to Page 3**

NOTE: A negative COVID-19 ID NOW™ or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) is not sufficient.

*An **ALTERNATE DIAGNOSIS** can be used if:

☐ Negative COVID-19 PCR test [related to current episode of new/changed symptoms]

AND

☐ No COVID-19 risk factors present

AND

☐ Strongly supported, clinically plausible alternate diagnosis

Notify IPC as per site process.

Discontinuation of Contact and Droplet Precautions for COVID-POSITIVE Patients in Acute Care (regardless of other respiratory virus results)

NOTE:

- For patients who have been or are currently in Critical Care due to COVID-19 infection:
See [Discontinuation of Precautions for Critical Care Patients with Suspected and Confirmed \(VRI\)](#)
- Duration of COVID-19 isolation in hospital does not depend on immunization status.
- If patient is discharged, default to community guidelines
(see [COVID-19 Information for Albertans - Prevent the Spread](#))

**Proceed only if patient's symptoms have improved to a
new/pre-existing baseline for at least 48 hours.**

1. Have there been 10 days since symptom onset date? *Use initial test positive date if patient does not develop symptoms or symptom onset date is not available.*
 - ☐ NO → Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions until 10 days after patient's symptom onset date
 - ☐ YES → **go to Question 2**
2. Is patient [immunocompromised](#)?
 - ☐ NO → **go to Question 4**
 - ☐ YES → **go to Question 3**
3. Is patient [severely immunocompromised](#)?
 - ☐ NO
 - Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions until 14 days after patient's symptom onset date.
 - Upon completion of COVID-19 Precautions → **go to Question 4**
 - ☐ YES
 - Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions.
 - Contact IPC (as per site process) for further direction.
4. Is patient on Additional Precautions for any other indication? (e.g., MRSA, CDI, norovirus, etc.)
 - ☐ NO
 - Discontinue Contact and Droplet precautions (*must be written as an order*).
 - Follow IPC Routine Practices.
 - ☐ YES
 - Discontinue Contact and Droplet precautions (*must be written as an order*).
 - Maintain any other Additional Precautions.
 - Contact IPC as per site process.

Discontinuation of Contact and Droplet Precautions for Patients COVID-19 NEGATIVE in Acute Care (regardless of other respiratory virus results)

COVID-19 Risk Factors

- ☐ Positive COVID-19 test within the last 10 days or currently pending (*check Netcare*)

☐ Household close contact of a COVID-19 case within 10 days before illness onset

☐ Associated with a COVID-19 outbreak at any healthcare unit/facility or any congregate setting within the last 10 days.

☐ Direction has been given for the patient to remain on Contact and Droplet Precautions or quarantine or self-isolation.

Scenario	1	2	3	4
COVID-19 Risk Factor(s)	Yes	Yes	No	No
Respiratory Virus Result	Positive	Negative/Unknown	Positive	Negative/Unknown
Immunocompromised (for any COVID-19 immunization status)	Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions. Consult IPC (as per site process) for further direction about duration of isolation.			Maintain Contact & Droplet Precautions until 48 hours symptom resolution/improvement. Upon completion of precautions, go to Question 1 (below).
Not Immunocompromised (for any COVID-19 immunization status)	Maintain Contact and Droplet Precautions for 10 days after the last Risk Factor exposure date AND 48 hours symptom resolution/improvement, whichever is longer unless otherwise directed by IPC . Upon completion of precautions, go to Question 1 (below).		Maintain Contact & Droplet Precautions until 48 hours symptom resolution/improvement. Upon completion of precautions, go to Question 1 (below).	

1. Is patient on Additional Precautions for any other indication? (e.g., MRSA, CDI, norovirus, etc.)

☐ NO

- Discontinue Contact and Droplet precautions (*must be written as an order*).
- Follow IPC Routine Practices.

☐ YES

- Discontinue Contact and Droplet precautions (*must be written as an order*).
- Maintain any other Additional Precautions.
- Contact IPC as per site process.

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