

# Communicating to congregate setting residents and families about recovery from COVID-19

## When communicating to residents/families/visitors, what does the term 'recovered' mean?

Recovered is defined in 2 different ways.

The first definition of recovered is when an individual is no longer infectious with an active COVID-19 infection. This is usually when the resident is 14 days past symptom onset, date of specimen collection or date of known exposure. In some cases the infectious period may last longer if the resident required ICU admission or they are [immunocompromised](#).

The second definition of recovered is when an individual has returned to their baseline/usual health or a new baseline/normal. Some people refer to this as 'clinically recovered'. This new baseline/normal may be due to a progression of their underlying disease/condition or due to lingering effects of COVID-19, such as an ongoing cough. The time for this recovery may be 14 days (the same period as when an individual is no longer infectious), or can take a number of weeks longer for residents with severe or critical disease.

## What does it mean when cases are reported publicly from Alberta Health as 'recovered'?

Alberta Health uses the first definition of recovered and reports numbers of individuals who are no longer infectious.

## When can the resident come off of isolation?

Most residents can have contact and droplet precautions (isolation) discontinued/stopped

- 14 days after symptom onset, or
- When no symptoms develop, 14 days after the date of a positive specimen collection or date of known exposure.

If the resident has ongoing symptoms, required ICU admission or they are [immunocompromised](#), consultation with Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and/or their physician/nurse practitioner is recommended before discontinuing contact and droplet precautions.