

## Policy & Procedure

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Discontinuation of Transmission-based Precautions for Patients with Confirmed COVID-19</b>	<b>Date of Origin:</b>	08/20	<b>Policy #</b>	<b>IP28</b>		
		<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	08/22				
		<b>Last Revised:</b>	08/22				
		<b>Effective:</b>	08/22	<b>Page</b>	1	of	3

<b>Affiliate(s):</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Hospital:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clifton Springs</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NWCH</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RGH</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UMMC</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unity</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unity Specialty Hospital</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Hospital Subcategories:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inpatient Services</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outpatient Services</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ElderOne (ext. clinics)</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PCASI</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SMS</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rochester Regional Health Home Care</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rochester Regional Health Hospice Care</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rochester Regional Health Home Infusion Pharmacy</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Rochester Regional Health Hospice Care (Hildebrandt Campus)</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>CompassionNet</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Genesee Region Home Care of Ontario County, Inc.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Long Term Care</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clifton Springs Nursing Home</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DeMay Living Center</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Edna Tina Wilson Living Center</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park Ridge Living Center</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unity Living Center</li> </ul> </li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Elder One – PACE</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>RMHC</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ACM Laboratory</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NonArticle 28 Practices (WNY)</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Ambulatory Surgery Centers</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PRCD, Inc.</b></li> </ul>
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For purposes of this policy, “Rochester Regional Health” shall collectively refer to the affiliates identified in the header of the policy except those outside the U.S.

**Policy Statement:** Isolation precautions for patients with COVID-19 infection are discontinued when patient no longer poses contagion risk, in accordance with latest CDC guidance and NYSDOH requirements.

**Procedure:** **Note: Meeting criteria for discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions is not a prerequisite for discharge.** A test-based strategy is no longer recommended because, in the majority of cases, it results in prolonged isolation of patients who continue to shed detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA but are no longer infectious.

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**Enhanced Isolation precautions and the COVID infection flag may be discontinued when the patient meets the following criteria:**

1. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
2. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved **and**
3. The required amount of time has passed since symptom onset for appropriate patient categories in Table 1, below. If the patient is asymptomatic throughout his/her infection, the date of the positive test begins the clock for the required isolation time.

**Table 1. Required minimum isolation time by patient type\*.**

Patient Type	Required Days since Symptom Onset or Positive Test**
<b>General Inpatients and Outpatients</b> <i>without ICU/Step-down level of care (severe illness) and not severely immunocompromised</i>	≥ 10 days
<b>ICU/Step-down Inpatient</b> <i>ICU/Step-down stay at any point during admission, related to COVID</i>	20 days*
<b>Severely Immunocompromised Patients (inpatient or outpatient)</b>  <i>Examples of severe immunocompromising conditions include, chemotherapy for cancer, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count &lt; 200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, and receipt of prednisone &gt;20mg/day for more than 14 days. Ultimately, this is the provider's discretion.</i>	≥ 20 days  AND One negative COVID test

\*Maximum isolation for non-severely immunocompromised patients is 20 days.

\*\*The initial positive test must be documented through a copy of lab result or report of positive result to Department of Health or Healthcare Provider, at the time of positive test. Symptom onset date considered for discontinuation of isolation can be up to 5 days prior to admission.

Discontinuation guidance also applies to surgical patients. See also [Surgical Toolkit](#) guidance.


**To remove COVID-19 flag in Care Connect**

- Flag will automatically expire at 45 days after positive result.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To remove flags earlier than 45 days, notify Infection Prevention to remove flag. Email RRHInfectionPreventionists@rochesterregional.org or hospital Infection Preventionist.</li> <li>Patients who are Admitted/Readmitted within the 45 days are placed on Enhanced Isolation precautions and assessed for ongoing symptoms.</li> <li>Flag will be removed when patient meets discontinuation criteria as described in this policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional COVID positive results following discontinuation of isolation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive results within 3 months of initial positive test and/or symptom onset:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the patient has met the discontinuation criteria above, no further action is needed, if symptoms have not worsened or the patient remains asymptomatic. The positive results will be considered part of the initial infection. There is no need to place the patient back on isolation and exposure tracing will not be completed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Results greater than 3 months from initial positive test and/or symptom onset: Treat the result as a new positive result. The patient is placed on precautions and exposure tracing is completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned Long-term Care Discharge:</b> See <a href="https://www.rochesterregional.org/-/media/files/covid/covid-nursing-home-workflows-20210426.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=55A08C532841D54BF978F272847F31B4FC3631BF">COVID-19 Clinical Workflows for Nursing Homes</a> (https://www.rochesterregional.org/-/media/files/covid/covid-nursing-home-workflows-20210426.pdf?la=en&amp;hash=55A08C532841D54BF978F272847F31B4FC3631BF)</p>
<b>References:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDC. Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. 2022. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#create">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html#create</a></li> </ol>

<b>Approvals</b>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Robert Mayo, MD	EVP/Chief Medical Officer	8/8/2022