

May 1, 2020

South Dakota Isolation Discontinuation Guidance for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection

Based on the evolving information about COVID-19 infectiousness, the South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) is simplifying into a single uniform recommendation the existing CDC guidance on discontinuation of isolation across healthcare and non-healthcare settings. Preference can be given to the symptom-based strategy due to the potential for prolonged detection of RNA in molecular assay without direct correlation to recovery of virus in culture.

Symptom-based strategy

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, AND
- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as:
 - Resolution of fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
 - Progressive improvement or resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

Test-based Strategy

- Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND
- Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized COVID-19 molecular assay for detection of SARS-CoV-2 RNA from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected at least 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens).

Considerations:

- For patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 who have not had any symptoms, medical providers might use either:
 - Time-based Strategy: At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. Because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness.
 - Test-based Strategy: Because of the absence of symptoms, it is not possible to gauge where these individuals are in the course of their illness. Follow the Test-based Strategy above with the modification that initiation of testing can begin immediately.
- Medical providers might consider the Test-based Strategy for immunocompromised persons when there is a concern of continued shedding of virus after recovery or for populations of individuals where there might be increased risk of transmission and/or morbidity and mortality from infection.

CDC Guidance on Discontinuation of Isolation

Healthcare Provider Return-to-Work Criteria: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>

Discharging Hospitalized Patients: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>

Ending Home Isolation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

Ending Home Isolation for Immunocompromised Patients: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ending-isolation.html>