

Admission Testing After Prior Positive COVID-19 Test







Introduction/Synopsis

Inactive SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) virus can still be present up to 90 days post illness. These patients (if asymptomatic or with improving symptoms) are no longer deemed contagious after the 10/20 day period for removal of isolation for health care facilities. The CDC guidance for removal from isolation for the community (as early as after Day 5 of symptoms) does not apply. Refer to [Guidance for Visitors and Outpatients with Recent COVID-19 Infection or Exposure](#).

	Between Days 0 and Day 10/20* <i>Day 0 = Earliest Documented + COVID-19 Test</i>	Between Days 11/21* and Day 90			After Day 90
	<i>Patient has not met criteria for clearance</i>	<i>Depends if patient meets clearance criteria or has development of new COVID-19 symptoms</i>			<i>Treat patient as if never had COVID-19 infection</i>
		Symptoms Absent or Improved	Symptoms Persist/ Worsening	New Symptoms Develop	
Admission COVID-19 test?	Testing Not Needed	Testing Not Needed	Testing Not Needed	Testing Needed	If Not Fully Vaccinated or if Severely Immunocompromised, Testing Needed
Isolation/ COVID-19 PPE?	Isolation Needed	Isolation Not Needed	Isolation Needed	Isolation Needed Pending Test Results	Isolation Needed if Symptomatic and Awaiting Test or if +

*Criteria for Clearance:

This applies to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 prior to admission. No fever x 24hrs, improved symptoms, and at least **10** (if not hospitalized or severe immunocompromise) **or 20 days** (if hosp/immunocompromised) since first + test. "Severe Immunocompromise": Primary immune deficiency (e.g. Common Variable Immune Deficiency), HIV infection with CD4 count ≤200, chemotherapy in the past year, biologic immunosuppressant use (e.g. DMARDs, adalimumab, etanercept, etc), ≥20 mg/day prednisone (or equivalent) for ≥14 days, or history of solid organ or stem cell transplant.

- DAY 0**  **Patient A and Patient B**
Both patients test positive for COVID-19 on the same date.
- DAY 10**  **Patient A's symptoms are absent/improved.**
Patient A is now cleared if not hospitalized or immunocompromised.
- DAY 14**  **Patient B is still febrile and admitted to hospital.**
No COVID-19 admission testing, but has not met clearance criteria + will need to be on isolation/COVID-19 PPE.
- DAY 21**  **Patient B's symptoms not improved/worsen.**
Needs to stay on isolation despite being Day 21 since the first positive test.
- DAY 23**  **Patient A was admitted without COVID-19 symptoms.**
No need for COVID-19 admission testing and no need for isolation/COVID-19 PPE.
- DAY 91**  **Patient A and Patient B develop COVID-19 symptoms.**
Treat patient as if never had COVID-19.

Closing/Guidance

Reinfection with COVID-19 has been rarely described and the concern is that persons infected may become susceptible again around 90 days after the onset of the infection. For persons recovered from COVID-19 infection, a positive PCR during the 90 days after illness most likely represents shedding of inactive viral RNA, which is not infectious.

For COVID-19 information, go to vumc.org/coronavirus.

2/23/2022

HR L&D