

All patients who have ever had a **positive SARS CoV-2 test** must meet the following criteria to have isolation precautions discontinued when accessing services at a Froedtert Health facility:

Immunocompromised* Patient	Patient with Severe Disease (was in ICU for COVID-19 Illness)	All other patients, including patients that never had symptoms
Resolution of fever for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications AND Improvement in other symptoms (complete resolution not required) AND 28 days after first positive test	Resolution of fever for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications AND Improvement in other symptoms (complete resolution not required) AND 20 days after first positive test	Resolution of fever for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications AND Improvement in other symptoms (complete resolution not required) AND 10 days after first positive test
<p>If patient remains asymptomatic, do not retest for procedures or hospital admission for 90 days following a positive test.</p> <p>NOTE: Retesting 90 days after a positive test is not recommended because a positive test in an asymptomatic person during the 90 days after illness represents persistent shedding of viral particles. If a recovered person becomes symptomatic during the 90 day window, then retesting may be warranted.</p>		

*For the purpose of this guideline, the definition of immunocompromised is as follows:

AIDS (CD4 below 200, or CD4 percentage below 15%)

Congenital (primary) immunodeficiency disorders

Leukemia or lymphoma

Generalized malignancy treatment:

- Alkylating agents
- Antimetabolites
- Radiation therapy

On large doses of corticosteroids for 14 days or longer:

- 20 mg or more per day of prednisone or equivalent
- 2 mg/kg or more per day of prednisone or equivalent

Solid Organ Transplant Patients

Bone Marrow Transplant patients who are taking certain immunosuppressive drugs

- BMT patients are considered "immune competent" 2 years after their treatment if they are NOT on steroids, biologics. If they are on steroids, or medications for graft vs host disease, then their risk is increased similar to the solid organ transplant patient.

Other immunosuppressants / immunomodulators

When can SARS CoV-2 patients return to work or stop isolation² at home?

The patient's local public health department will assist the patient in determining when they can be released into the community or when they can return to work. Local public health guidelines may differ from home care or healthcare facility guidelines. According to the CDC, patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 illness may stop home isolation and return to work when: resolution of fever for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medications AND Improvement in symptoms AND at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Patients with severe illness (i.e. requiring hospitalization, may require home isolation for up to 20 days. Patients who never develop symptoms, isolation and other precautions can be discontinued 10 days after the date of their first positive test.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings, Updated July 17, 2020
2. Centers for Disease Control Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings, Updated July 20, 2020
3. Froedtert Health Infectious Disease Physicians Expert Consensus, July 22, 2020
4. Lui, G., Ling, L., Lai, C. K., Tso, E. Y., Fung, K. S., Chan, V., ... & Chow, K. M. (2020). Viral dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 across a spectrum of disease severity in COVID-19. The Journal of Infection.
5. Zheng, S., Fan, J., Yu, F., Feng, B., Lou, B., Zou, Q., ... & Chen, W. (2020). Viral load dynamics and disease severity in patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 in Zhejiang province, China, January-March 2020: retrospective cohort study. *bmj*, 369.