

## **Patient Information after COVID-19 Testing**

If you were tested due to symptoms: You likely have a viral syndrome which may include symptoms of muscle aches, fevers, chills, runny nose, cough, sneezing, sore throat, vomiting, loss of taste or smell, finger or toe lesions, or diarrhea. As of today's visit, you are well enough to go home and treat your symptoms with rest, oral fluids, medicines for fevers, cough, pain, etc. We recommend that you isolate at home following the instructions below until you get your results back.

#### If result is positive, end home isolation when:

- at least 24 hours has passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND
- improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath); AND
- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

**If result is negative**, end home isolation when symptoms are improving AND afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

**If you were tested due to exposure to COVID+ person:** We recommend that you isolate at home following the instructions below until you get your results back.

**If result is positive:** May discontinue home isolation when at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test and no symptoms of illness developed.

**If result is negative:** End home isolation after 10 days if NO symptoms of illness develop. Continue to monitor for symptoms of illness until 14 days after exposure date AND wear a mask, stay 6 feet from others, avoid crowds, wash hands. Note: The Local Health Department may contact patient and recommend 14-day quarantine.

#### **Symptoms of illness developed after testing**, end home isolation when:

- at least 1 full day (24 hours) has passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND
- improvement in respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath); AND
- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

Testing for Obstetrical patients, patients scheduled for procedures or patients tested for any other reason: You will be contacted with the results of your test and given further direction.

**If you have Worsening Symptoms:** Prior to your test results returning, if you have worsening symptoms including severe shortness of breath, seek medical attention immediately. If possible, put on a facemask prior to entering any healthcare facility.

#### For patients with MyChart:

- A result of "NOTDET" means the virus was not detected and you do not have COVID-19 at this time.
   Your provider or local health department may still require home quarantine based on your level of exposure.
- A result of "DETECTED" means the virus was detected and you are positive for COVID-19.

#### HOME ISOLATION



## Stay home except to get medical care

You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care. Only get medical care if it is absolutely necessary. We would not recommend that you see your physician for routine medical care at this time. It would be appropriate to receive medical care for your viral illness if the symptoms of your illness were worsening significantly (high fever, worsening shortness of breath). If you need to seek medical care, you should let the medical facility know prior to going there that you have symptoms of COVID-19 and have been tested. Wear a mask anytime you seek care if a mask is available.

Do not go to work, school, or public areas. Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Patients that are severely ill or severely immuno-compromised may require 20 days of isolation.



# Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

**People:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.

Animals: You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while sick. When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick; if you must care for your pet, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask. See COVID-19 and Animals for more information.



#### Wear a facemask

You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not be in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.



#### Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry. Soap and water is preferred if hands are visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



# Avoid sharing personal household items

You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home. After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.



#### Cover your coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can; immediately wash your hands.



### Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



#### Monitor your symptoms

Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing). Before seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19. Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider's office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.

### Recommended precautions for household members, intimate partners, and caregivers

#### Close contacts should also follow these recommendations:

- Make sure that you understand and can help the patient follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medication(s) and care. You should help the patient with basic needs in the home and provide support for getting groceries, prescriptions, and other personal needs.
- Monitor the patient's symptoms. If the patient is getting sicker, call his or her healthcare provider and tell them that the patient has
  laboratory-confirmed COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people in the office or
  waiting room from getting infected. Ask the healthcare provider to call the local or state health department for additional guidance.
  If the patient has a medical emergency and you need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that the patient has, or is being
  evaluated for COVID-19.
- Household members should stay in another room or be separated from the patient as much as possible. Household members should use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.
- Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home.
- Household members should care for any pets in the home. Do not handle pets or other animals while sick.
- Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good air flow, such as by an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based
  hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 95% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
  Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- The patient should wear a facemask when you are around other people. If the patient is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), you, as the caregiver, should wear a mask when you are in the same room as the patient.
- Wear a disposable facemask and gloves when you touch or have contact with the patient's blood, stool, or body fluids, such as saliva, sputum, nasal mucus, vomit, urine.
  - Throw out disposable facemasks and gloves after using them. Do not reuse.
  - When removing personal protective equipment, first remove and dispose of gloves. Then, immediately clean your hands
    with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Next, remove and dispose of facemask, and immediately clean your
    hands again with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid sharing household items with the patient. You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the patient uses these items, you should wash them thoroughly (see below "Wash laundry thoroughly").
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
  - Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and
    effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing
    gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- Wash laundry thoroughly.
  - · Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
  - Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items and keep soiled items away from your body. Clean your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after removing your gloves.
  - Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, using a normal laundry
    detergent according to washing machine instructions and dry thoroughly using the warmest temperatures recommended
    on the clothing label.
- Place all used disposable gloves, facemasks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before disposing of them with other
  household waste. Clean your hands (with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) immediately after handling these
  items. Soap and water should be used preferentially if hands are visibly dirty.
- Discuss any additional questions with your state or local health department or healthcare provider. Check available hours when contacting your local health department.