

# COVID-19 Return to Epic Care Criteria for Patients & Staff with Confirmed COVID-19

A test-based strategy is **no longer recommended** by the CDC (except as noted below) in determining when an individual is cleared to return to our clinics because, in the majority of cases, a person may test positive for COVID-19, but be no longer infectious. The time period used depends on the patient's severity of illness and if they are severely immunocompromised.

## PATIENTS

### SYMPTOM BASED STRATEGY

1. Individuals with mild to moderate illnesses **but are not severely immunocompromised**:
  - a. At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
  - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

Individuals who are **not severely immunocompromised** and who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive test.

2. Individuals with severe to critical illnesses, or **who are immunocompromised**:
  - a. At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
  - b. At least 24 hours have passed *since last* fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.
  - d. Consider consultation with infection control experts.

**Immunocompromised** Individuals who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after at least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

### TEST BASED STRATEGY

A test-based strategy could also be considered for some Individuals (e.g., those who are severely immunocompromised) in consultation with infectious diseases experts if concerns exist for the Individual being infectious for more than 20 days.

1. Individuals who are symptomatic:
  - a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - b. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved, **AND**
  - c. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected  $\geq 24$  hours apart.
2. Individuals who are not symptomatic:
  - a. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected

≥24 hours apart.

## ALL STAFF

### SYMPTOM BASED STRATEGY

1. Individuals with mild to moderate illnesses **but are not severely immunocompromised**:
  - a. At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
  - b. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

Individuals who are **not severely immunocompromised** and who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive test.

2. Individuals with severe to critical illnesses, or **who are immunocompromised**:
  - a. At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared* **AND**
  - b. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - c. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

**Immunocompromised** Individuals who were **always asymptomatic**, will be cleared to return to clinic after at least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since the date of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

### TEST BASED STRATEGY

A test-based strategy could also be considered for some Individuals (e.g., those who are severely immunocompromised) in consultation with infectious diseases experts if concerns exist for the Individual being infectious for more than 20 days.

1. Healthcare Personnel who are symptomatic:
  - a. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
  - b. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved, **AND**
  - c. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart.
2. Healthcare Personnel who are not symptomatic:
  - a. Results are negative from at two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart.

### RETURN TO WORK PRACTICES & WORK RESTRICTIONS

After returning to work, Healthcare Personnel should:

1. Wear a surgical facemask for source control at all times while in the healthcare facility until all symptoms are completely resolved or at baseline.
2. Self-monitor for symptoms, and seek re-evaluation from occupational health if symptoms recur or worsen.