



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

September 3, 2020

**MEDICAL ADVISORY: UPDATE #17—CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
REINFECTION WITH COVID-19/NEGATIVE TEST RESULTS/ISOLATION & QUARANTINE**

Dear Healthcare Provider:

Reinfection with COVID-19

Data available to date show that a person with mild to moderate COVID-19 illness are infectious for no longer than 10 days. Those with severe to critical illness or are severely immunocompromised may be infectious for longer, up to 20 days. Additionally, those who have had and recovered from COVID-19 may have low levels of virus detectable for up to 3 months after diagnosis. Studies have not found evidence that clinically recovered persons with persistence of viral RNA have transmitted SARS-CoV-2 to others.

Reinfection with SARS-CoV-2 within three months of initial infection has not been confirmed in any recovered persons to date; however, additional research is ongoing. If a person who has recovered develops new symptoms of COVID-19 during or after the 3 months following their recent infection and an evaluation fails to identify an alternative diagnosis, an evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 reinfection may be warranted in consultation with an infectious disease expert. Isolation during evaluation may be warranted, especially if the person has had close contact with someone with COVID-19.

Close contacts of a person with COVID-19 must stay home for 14 days after their last exposure; however, anyone who has had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and who:

- Developed COVID-19 illness within the previous 3 months **AND**
- Has recovered **AND**
- Remains without COVID-19 symptoms

does **not** need to stay home in quarantine or be retested.

Negative Test Results

A negative COVID-19 test result means that the person tested was likely not infected *at the time the sample was collected* or the specimen was *inadequate*. Persons with a negative COVID-19 test:

- Can develop an infection at a later time
- Must still quarantine at home for 14 days after last exposure, if identified as a close contact to person with COVID-19

Isolation and Quarantine Periods for person with COVID-19 and their close contacts:

COVID-19 patients with *mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised*:

Release from isolation when:

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- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

Persons who were asymptomatic throughout their infection may be released from isolation when at least 10 days have passed since the date of collection of their first positive viral diagnostic test.

COVID-19 patients with *severe to critical illness*¹ or who are *severely immunocompromised*²:

Release from isolation (consider consultation with infection control experts) when:

- At least 10 days and up to 20 days have passed since symptoms first appeared **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
- Symptoms have improved (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)

Close contacts (within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer, or in direct contact with person's secretions):

Release from quarantine when:

- Fourteen (14) days have passed since their last exposure to a person with COVID-19, *regardless* of whether the close contact has a negative COVID-19 test.
- Persons with **ongoing exposure** (e.g., household) must remain in quarantine for 14 days *after* the COVID-19 case is released from isolation.

For further information please see the attached Resources for Clinicians, with links to guidelines for health care providers.

COVID-19 is considered an URGENT CATEGORY NOTIFIABLE CONDITION; providers are required to report any persons with COVID-19 positive test results and those strongly suspected to have COVID-19, to prevent the further spread of disease in our communities. If you have any questions or need to report a patient with confirmed/suspected COVID-19 or suspected MIS-C, please contact us at one of the numbers below.

Oahu (Disease Reporting Line).....(808) 586-4586
Maui District Health Office(808) 984-8213
Kauai District Health Office(808) 241-3563
Big Island District Health Office (Hilo).....(808) 933-0912
Big Island District Health Office (Kona)(808) 322-4877
After hours on Oahu.....(808) 600-3625
After hours on neighbor islands(800) 360-2575 (toll free)

¹ Severe Illness: Individuals who have respiratory frequency >30 breaths per minute, SpO2 <94% on room air at sea level (or, for patients with chronic hypoxemia, a decrease from baseline of >3%), ratio of arterial partial pressure of oxygen to fraction of inspired oxygen (PaO2/FiO2) <300 mmHg, or lung infiltrates >50%. Critical Illness: Individuals who have respiratory failure, septic shock, and/or multiple organ dysfunction.

² Chemotherapy for cancer, being within one year out from receiving a hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count <200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, receipt of prednisone >20 mg/day for more than 14 days, may cause a higher degree of immunocompromise.

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This is a rapidly evolving situation. To ensure you are accessing the latest information, please visit HDOH's COVID-19 webpage at: <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/> or CDC's COVID-19 website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

We appreciate your partnership in identifying cases of COVID-19 and preventing the further spread of disease in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Y. Park".

Sarah Y. Park, MD, FAAP
State Epidemiologist

Attachment



COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR CLINICIANS

HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

COVID-19 Case Report Form

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2020/01/Hawaii-PUI-Form-nCoV-2019.pdf>

COVID-19 CSTE 2020 Interim Case Definition

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/08/05/>

What to Advise Patients Who are Tested for COVID-19

https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-To-Advise-Patients-who-are-Tested-For-COVID-19_040120.pdf

What to Do if a Patient Tests Positive for COVID-19

https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-To-Advise-Patients-who-Test-Positive-For-COVID-19_040120.pdf

Home Isolation and Quarantine Guidance

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/08/Isolation-and-Quarantine-072120.pdf>

COVID-19 Interim Return to Work/School Guidance

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/08/COVID-19-Return-to-Work-School-Guidance-073120.pdf>

What to Do if a Person at your Worksite has COVID-19

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/05/What-to-Do-if-a-Person-at-Your-Worksite-has-COVID-19.pdf>

Medical Advisories

<https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/medical-advisories/>

Patient Handouts

What to Do if you have been Tested for COVID-19

https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-To-Do-If-You-Have-Been-Tested-For-COVID19_040120.pdf

How to Care for Someone with COVID-19 at Home

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/05/Caring-for-Someone-with-COVID-19-at-Home-050420.pdf>

What to Do if you Test Positive for COVID-19

https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-To-Do-If-You-Test-Positive-For-COVID19_040120.pdf

Instructions for Close Contacts of a Person with COVID-19

<https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/05/Close-Contacts-of-Person-with-COVID-19-050420.pdf>