

VCH COVID-19 Isolation Clearance Criteria

COVID-19 cases can only be cleared from isolation and deemed no longer infectious by a Medical Health Officer or the public health team working with the Medical Health Officer.

However, we understand that there may be situations when patients and physicians have questions about whether a patient remains infectious or about the criteria used to clear cases from isolation.

Community Cases

COVID-19 cases managed exclusively in the community can be cleared from isolation and considered to be no longer infectious when **all** of the following criteria are met:

- a. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms; AND
- b. Fever has resolved without use of fever-reducing medication; AND
- c. Symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved.

Coughing may persist for several weeks and does not mean an individual is infectious and needs to self-isolate.

Hospitalized Cases

COVID-19 cases with illness severe enough to require hospitalization can be cleared from isolation and considered to be no longer infectious when **one** of the following criteria are met:

- a. At least 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms, fever has resolved without use of fever reducing medication AND two consecutive negative NP swabs at least 24 hours apart (**test-based strategy**); OR
- b. At least 10 days have passed since discharge from hospital, fever has resolved without use of fever-reducing medication AND symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic) have improved; OR
- c. At least 40 days have passed since onset of symptoms (respiratory, gastrointestinal, and systemic).

A **test-based strategy** is preferred for patients while they are admitted to hospital and for patients being transferred to long-term care facilities.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officers

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