



Discharge Guidance for Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

Before sending a patient home, consult with the patient's clinical care team and clinicians in infection prevention and/or infectious diseases. We recommend the following criteria for discharge:

1. Resolution of fever for at least 24 hours without use of antipyretic medication.
2. Significant improvement in illness signs and symptoms requiring minimal supportive care. This includes requiring no oxygen supplementation or back-to-stable chronic oxygen supplementation.
3. The patient should be able to adhere to home isolation recommendations. Consider the risk of secondary transmission to household members with immunocompromising conditions or who are healthcare workers.
4. Ensure that patient is able to manage ADL/iADLs independently or has enough available support at home.
5. Recommend that patient has enough support to receive 2 weeks of food and other necessary supplies (including all required medications) while isolated at home.
6. Print and review CDC recommendations on "Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)."
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/guidance-home-care.pdf>
7. Print and review CDC recommendations for caregiver(s) on "Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Homes and Residential Communities."
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention-H.pdf>
8. When patients are discharged, give them one cloth or manufactured mask to wear when they are around other people, and a paper bag where they should store the mask when not in use.
9. Notify the Mississippi State Department of Health by fax (601-576-7497) when a COVID-19 patient is discharged. Give the patient's name, date of discharge, contact information and location where the patient is discharged (e.g., home, long-term care facility).

10. Upon discharge, the patient should remain on transmission-based precautions and isolation until at least 10 days after the onset of symptoms (or 10 days after the date of test if there were no symptoms). Isolation may be discontinued when at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared (or 10 days after date of collection if asymptomatic) and the patient is fever free for at least 24 hours with improvement of other symptoms. For patients being discharged to nursing homes, other long-term care facilities, or other residential healthcare settings:
 - a. If the patient is COVID-19 positive and transmission-based precautions are still required (based on symptoms and length of time since onset of illness or date of test collection - see <https://msdh.ms.gov/file/8632.pdf>), then the facility should continue appropriate transmission-based precautions with the patient on admission, including isolation, and appropriate PPE. A negative COVID-19 test is not required for admission.
 - b. If the patient is COVID-19 positive and 10 days have passed since onset of symptoms (or date of collection is the patient showed no symptoms) and the patient has been fever-free for at least 24 hours, then no further transmission-based precautions are required. **A negative COVID-19 test is not required for admission.**
 - c. If the patient was exposed to COVID-19 and is asymptomatic and/or has tested negative, the patient must remain quarantined, restricted to their room (a single room is best), and cared for with proper PPE until 14 days after the last exposure date.

For scheduling convalescent discharge transfers, hospitals should call Mississippi Med-Com at 601-815-5510 Monday through Sunday 8am to 5pm.

Discharge guidance is based upon current information and may change as new information becomes available.