PARTNERS INFECTION CONTROL GUIDANCE FOR PATIENTS WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19: CRITERIA FOR RESOLUTION OF COVID-19 INFECTION STATUS AND DISCONTINUATION OF ISOLATION

This guidance is for patients with confirmed COVID-19 who remain hospitalized or are being considered for discharge to rehab and indicates when COVID-19 Infection Status be resolved, and isolation discontinued. These recommendations are based on interim CDC guidance (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html).

Resolution of COVID-19 Infection Status may be considered when the following conditions are met:

1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since resolution of fever (without the use of antipyretic medications) and improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) and
2. At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and
3. Two nasopharyngeal swabs taken ≥24 hours apart are negative.

   a. When testing for clearance of infection, await the results of the first test before sending the second test.
   b. If the first or second nasopharyngeal swab is positive, maintain precautions and repeat a nasopharyngeal swab after 72 hours or later. Clearance requires two consecutive tests ≥24 hours negative. Repeat at 72 hour intervals if nasopharyngeal tests continue to be positive.

Resolution of COVID-19 Infection Status and Isolation orders requires approval from local Biothreats/Infection Control Leadership.