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**MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL**

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SARS-CoV-2 INFECTION STATUSES AND RESOLUTION COVID-19, CoV-Presumed, CoV-Risk, and CoV-Exposed

Summary of June 22, 2020 changes:

- Added time-based resolution criteria for inpatients with COVID-19 or CoV-Presumed Infection Statuses
- Clarified time-based criteria for asymptomatic individuals diagnosed with COVID-19
- Removed CoV-Recovered as an infection status
- Clarified time-based resolution for prior inpatients who have been discharged.

Background

Infection statuses are maintained by Infection Control staff at Partners facilities. This document provides guidance on the use of four infection statuses related to SARS-CoV-2: COVID-19, CoV-Presumed, CoV-Risk, and CoV-Exposed.

Criteria for resolution of each infection status may change, and it is the responsibility of the patient's providers to implement clearance protocols as appropriate. If these protocols have been completed, the provider can request resolution of the infection status and, when appropriate, seek advice from local Infection Control regarding discontinuation of isolation. CoV-Recovered is not an infection status; it is applied to the patient header at the time of COVID-19 resolution and persists for 6 weeks. Details regarding testing patients during the period of CoV-Recovered is described in the [SARS-CoV-2 Testing Policy](#).

Some Infection Statuses are auto-resolved (see below). Other Infection Status changes are at the discretion of local Infection Control.

Note that resolution of infection status for Partners Healthcare workers is addressed in Partners Return to Work Criteria, and those individuals are excluded from this guidance.

Table follows below.

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COVID-19 INFECTION STATUS AND RESOLUTION CRITERIA	
Individuals who have tested positive ¹ for COVID-19 by nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT). Infection: COVID-19	
Isolation: Enhanced Respiratory Isolation; may be cohorted unless there are other discordant infection statuses (i.e., MRSA)	
Patient Type	Resolution Criteria (if test- and time-based are options, provider chooses one) <i>Time-based resolution can supersede test-based resolution. Note: if patient qualifies for either test-based or time-based, but has symptoms explained by another process (i.e., bacterial pneumonia), decisions regarding resolution of infection status are at the discretion of local infection control.</i>
Current outpatient or inpatient, asymptomatic at the time of positive test	≥10 days since the patient’s first positive test, provided that the patient has remained asymptomatic.
Current outpatient	<p>Test-based Resolution†</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) or return to previous baseline and Passage of at least 10 days since the first positive test and Two negative nasopharyngeal swabs by NAAT taken ≥ 24 hours apart (first test of clearance should be obtained at the earliest 10 days after the first positive test). <p>Time-based Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Passage of at least 3 days (72 hours) since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and One of the following: Passage of at least 14 days since symptoms first appeared, or if admitted to an acute care facility, at least 14 days since discharge or 30 days from first positive test, whichever is shorter.
Current inpatient, non-intubated	<p>Test-based Resolution†</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), return to previous baseline, or, if previously intubated, reduction of need for supplemental oxygen to a minimal level (e.g., 2 L/min per nasal cannula), and Passage of at least 10 days since the first positive test, and Two negative nasopharyngeal swabs by NAAT taken ≥ 24 hours apart. The first test of clearance should be obtained at the earliest 10 days after the first positive test. <p>Time-based Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), or return to previous baseline and

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	3. Passage of at least 30 days since the first positive test
Current inpatient, intubated or post tracheostomy, unable to be liberated from the ventilator due to non-respiratory issues	<p>Test-based Resolution†</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Improvement in respiratory status, as marked by weaning of ventilator settings to minimal support settings and 3. Passage of at least 10 days since the first positive test and 4. Two negative nasopharyngeal swabs by NAAT taken ≥ 24 hours apart, and at least one negative lower respiratory tract sample (endotracheal aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage). The first test of clearance should be obtained at the earliest 10 days after the first positive test. <p>Time-based Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Improvement in respiratory status, as marked by weaning of ventilator settings to minimal support settings with ambient oxygen, and 3. Passage of at least 30 days since the first positive test
<p>†: Await the results of the first test before sending the second test. If the first or second nasopharyngeal swab is positive, maintain precautions and repeat a nasopharyngeal swab after 3 days</p> <p>‡: Initial results reported as presumptive positive or negative with low signal detected will result in CoV-Presumed status</p>	

COV-PRESUMED INFECTION STATUS AND RESOLUTION CRITERIA	
<p>Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without positive¹ NAAT to confirm. This infection status will be added in setting of symptoms and positive serological assay for SARS-CoV-2 and is otherwise added at the discretion of Infection Control</p> <div style="float: right; border: 1px solid red; background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px; font-weight: bold;">Infection: CoV-Presumed</div> <p>Isolation: Enhanced Respiratory Isolation; no cohorting permitted.</p>	
Patient Type	<p>Resolution Criteria (if test- and time-based are options, provider chooses one)</p> <p><i>Time-based resolution can supersede test-based resolution. Note: if patient qualifies for either test-based or time-based, but has symptoms explained by another process (i.e., bacterial pneumonia), decisions regarding resolution of infection status are at the discretion of local infection control.</i></p>
Current outpatient	<p>Test-based Resolution†</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) or return to previous baseline, and 3. Passage of at least 10 days since symptom onset and 4. One negative nasopharyngeal swab by NAAT. The test of clearance should be obtained at least 10 days after symptom onset. <p>Time-Based Resolution</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passage of at least 3 days (72 hours) since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and 2. One of the following

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Passage of at least 14 days since symptoms first appeared, or b. If admitted to an acute care facility, at least 14 days since discharge or 30 days from day when symptoms first appeared, whichever is shorter.
Current inpatient, non-intubated	<p>Test-based Resolution‡</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), return to previous baseline, or, if previously intubated, reduction of need for supplemental oxygen to a minimal level (e.g. 2 L/min per nasal cannula), and 3. Passage of at least 10 days since symptom onset, and 4. One additional negative nasopharyngeal swab by NAAT. <p>Time-based Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), or return to previous baseline and 3. Passage of at least 30 days since symptom onset
Current inpatient, intubated or post tracheostomy, unable to be liberated from the ventilator due to non-respiratory issues	<p>Test-based Resolution‡</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Improvement in respiratory status, as marked by weaning of ventilator settings to minimal support settings and 3. Passage of at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms, and 4. After 1, 2, and 3 apply, at least one additional negative nasopharyngeal swab by NAAT, and at least one negative lower respiratory tract sample (endotracheal aspirate or bronchoalveolar lavage). <p>Time-based Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and 2. Improvement in respiratory status, as marked by weaning of ventilator settings to minimal support settings with ambient oxygen, and 3. Passage of at least 30 days since symptom onset
<p>‡: Await the results of the first test before sending the second test. If the first or second nasopharyngeal swab is positive, maintain precautions and repeat a nasopharyngeal swab after 3 days</p> <p>‡: Initial results reported as presumptive positive or negative with low signal detected are <u>not</u> positive but trigger CoV-Presumed status</p>	

COV-RISK INFECTION STATUS AND RESOLUTION CRITERIA	
Individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and undergoing evaluation; some may have one or more negative test results, but interpretation of results is not complete.	
Infection: CoV-Risk	
Isolation: Enhanced Respiratory Isolation; no cohorting permitted.	
Patient Type	Resolution Criteria (if test- and time-based are options, provider chooses one) <i>Time-based resolution can supersede test-based resolution criteria.</i>

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Current outpatient	<p>Test-based Resolution‡ If clinical suspicion for COVID-19 is low, then the CoV-Risk Infection Status can be discontinued after a single negative nasopharyngeal swab by NAAT.</p> <p>Time-based Resolution Without intervention, the CoV-Risk infection status auto-resolves after 14 days for non-admitted patients.</p> <p>Note: If the patient’s providers have determined that COVID is no longer on the patient’s differential after a negative NAAT test, Infection Control can resolve the infection status prior to 14 days at their discretion.</p>
Current inpatient	<p>Test-based Resolution‡</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If clinical suspicion for COVID-19 is low, then the CoV-Risk Infection Status can be discontinued after a single negative nasopharyngeal swab by NAAT if an alternative diagnosis has been established. Otherwise, follow site-specific resolution guidance.
<p>‡: Await the results of the first test before sending the second test. If the first or second nasopharyngeal swab is positive, maintain precautions and repeat a nasopharyngeal swab after 3 days</p>	

COV-EXPOSED INFECTION STATUS AND RESOLUTION CRITERIA	
<p>CoV-Exposed: Asymptomatic individuals with known exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>Isolation: Enhanced Respiratory Isolation; no cohorting permitted.</p> <p><i>Exposure is defined as direct face-to-face contact in the prior 14 days with a confirmed case for more than 10 minutes during the course of their illness; if both parties were wearing surgical masks or if the source was not wearing a mask but the exposed was wearing a mask and eye protection, neither are considered an exposure. Exposed individuals may also be identified through public health contact tracing. Note that this infection status is automatically added to newborns if the mother CoV-Risk, COVID-19, or CoV-Presumed.</i></p>	
<p>All patients</p>	<p>Time-based Resolution Without intervention, CoV-Exposed infection status auto-resolves after 14 days. If CoV-Exposed was added to a newborn’s record because the mother was CoV-Risk, and her risk is resolved, CoV-Exposed will be resolved for newborn at the same time.</p>

Infection: CoV-Exposed

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