

# COVID-19 Release from Isolation - Guidance Flow Chart

Revised - 25 August 2020

Interactive  
Isolation Guidance Tool  
available at:  
[Maricopa.Gov/COVIDIsolationTool](https://Maricopa.Gov/COVIDIsolationTool)

**SYMPTOMS**  
At the time of testing/evaluation, was the patient experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19? †

† Symptoms of COVID-19 may include:

- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever or chills
- Muscle or body aches, headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting, diarrhea
- Sore throat, congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell.

Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness and appear 2-14 days after exposure.

**YES,**  
symptomatic.

**NO,**  
asymptomatic.

**PCR or Antigen Test**  
result available?

**PCR or Antigen Test**  
result available?

**NO,** including:  
- Awaiting result  
- Serology tested only (regardless of result)  
- Not tested.

**YES,**  
result available.

**YES,**  
result available.

**NO,** including:  
- Awaiting result  
- Serology tested only (regardless of result)  
- Not tested.

If awaiting test result, follow **POSITIVE** guideline then re-evaluate when test result is known.  
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If untested, follow the **POSITIVE** guideline, **or get a PCR or Antigen test** and follow **POSITIVE** guideline then re-evaluate when test result is known.

**POSITIVE**  
Isolate until **all** the following are met:  
At least **10 days** since symptoms appeared.  
At least **24 hours** since last fever **without** the use of fever-reducing medication.  
Other symptoms have improved.

**NEGATIVE**  
Isolate until **all** the following are met:  
At least **24 hours** since last fever **without** the use of fever-reducing medication.  
Other symptoms have improved.

**POSITIVE**  
Isolate for **10 days** from when the specimen was collected.  
If symptoms develop, follow the guidance for symptomatic patients.

**NEGATIVE**  
No isolation needed.  
Avoid future exposures by following everyday precautions.  
See recommendations at: [Maricopa.Gov/COVID19](https://Maricopa.Gov/COVID19)

If awaiting test result, follow **NEGATIVE** guideline then re-evaluate when test result is known.  
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Otherwise, PCR/Antigen testing is unnecessary for most asymptomatic patients without known exposure but is available to anyone. Follow **NEGATIVE** guideline then re-evaluate if tested.

**RETESTED?**  
Extension of isolation is **not** routinely recommended if a previously-positive individual is retested **within 3 months** of onset of symptoms (or date of first positive test if asymptomatic).

**SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:**  
**\*Serious Illness or \*\*Severe Immunocompromise**  
Isolate until **all** the following are met:  
At least **20 days** since symptoms appeared.  
At least **24 hours** since last fever **without** fever-reducing medication.  
Other symptoms have improved.  
**Healthcare Providers** leaving isolation should consult with their institution's infection control authority before returning to work.

**SPECIAL EXCEPTION:**  
**\*\*Severe Immunocompromise**  
Isolate for **20 days** from when the specimen was collected.  
If symptoms develop during isolation, follow guidance for symptomatic patients.

**SPECIAL EXCEPTION:**  
**\*Known Exposure to Person with COVID-19**  
If an asymptomatic patient (including essential workers) is a close-contact of a known case, follow **QUARANTINE** guidelines instead of these *isolation* guidelines.  
See: [Maricopa.Gov/COVIDQuarantine](https://Maricopa.Gov/COVIDQuarantine)

**\*Serious illness** – e.g. hospitalized in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). For more details, see: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html)

**\*\*Severe immunocompromise** may include being on chemotherapy for cancer, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count < 200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, use of prednisone >20mg/day for more than 14 days, or hematopoietic stem cell or solid organ transplant in past year.