

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

The following provides guidance for discontinuing home isolation for persons with COVID-19. **Note: a test-based strategy is not recommended to determine when to discontinue home isolation, except in certain circumstances.**

DISCONTINUING HOME ISOLATION FOR PERSONS WITH COVID-19

People with mild to moderate COVID-19 remain infectious no longer than 10 days after their symptoms began. **Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue isolation under the following conditions:**

- At least 10 days* have passed since symptoms *first* appeared; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- There is an improvement in symptoms.

*A limited number of persons with severe illness may continue to be infectious beyond 10 days, which may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset.

Persons infected who test positive for COVID-19 but remain asymptomatic may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) test.

RETURN TO WORK CRITERIA FOR HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL (HCP) WITH COVID-19

HCP with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised may return to work when:

- At least 10 days have passed since symptoms *first* appeared; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- There is an improvement in symptoms.

HCP who test positive for COVID-19 but remain asymptomatic may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive RT-PCR test.

HCP with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised may return to work when:

- At least 20 days have passed since symptoms *first* appeared; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- There is an improvement in symptoms.

Test-based strategy for determining when HCP can return to work:

In some instances, a test-based strategy could be considered to allow HCP to return to work earlier than if the symptom-based strategy were used. However, many individuals will have prolonged viral shedding, limiting the utility of this approach.

HCP who are symptomatic may return to work when:

- There is resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- There is an improvement in symptoms; **AND**
- Results are negative from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens) tested using an RT-PCR test.

HCP who are asymptomatic may return to work when:

Results are negative from at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥ 24 hours apart (total of two negative specimens) tested using RT-PCR test.