

North Oaks Guidance for Discontinuation of Isolation for COVID-19+ Inpatients

Purpose

• This document is meant for patients with positive COVID-19 testing who are inpatient or must return to the inpatient clinical environment at NOMC or NORH prior to full clearance and removal of precautions. This document also provides recommendations on the removal of precautions. These guidelines are meant to protect our patients and healthcare workers. This is a general guidance and will be managed by the following on a case by case basis.

Audience

- Clinical providers and staff at North Oaks in collaboration with Infection Prevention, Infectious Diseases, and North Oaks Administration.

Criteria to Discontinue Droplet Condition Specific Isolation during Admission or Readmission

Symptom-Based Approach:

Patients with asymptomatic to mild illness, who are admitted for a reason other than COVID-19:

If the following criteria are met, then discontinue from Droplet Condition Specific Isolation.

- At least five days from symptom onset*; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever, defined as >100.4F, without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
- Symptoms associated with COVID-19 are not present or have improved.

Patients with moderate illness:

If the following criteria are met, then discontinue from Droplet Condition Specific Isolation.

- At least 10 days from symptom onset*; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever, defined as >100.4F, without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
- Symptoms associated with COVID-19 have improved.

Patients with severe/critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised:

If the following criteria are met, then discontinue from Droplet Condition Specific Isolation.

- At least 20 days from symptom onset*; **AND**
- At least 24 hours have passed since last fever, defined as >100.4F, without the use of fever-reducing medication, **AND**
- Symptoms associated with COVID-19 have improved

*If date of symptom onset cannot be determined, or patient remained asymptomatic, the date of the first positive COVID-19 PCR test will be used.

If the patient must return to the inpatient healthcare setting before fulfilling the above criteria based on severity of illness when first tested positive, they should remain in Droplet Condition Specific Isolation until fulfill the appropriate above approach.

Once droplet condition specific isolation has been discontinued if the patient remains inpatient, they will continue to wear a surgical mask when performing any activities outside of their private room due to universal masking.