

Delta County Memorial Hospital
Policies & Procedures – COVID-19

Isolation Precautions Discontinuation
Guidelines in the Hospitalized Patient Who is COVID +

The safety of our patients and our healthcare workers is our highest priority. As patients with COVID-19 are hospitalized, they may require continued hospitalization for other medical or care needs after resolution of their COVID-19 infection. We are continuing to learn more about the duration of shedding of the virus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 once symptoms resolve. Based on current recommendations, the following conditions must be met prior to consideration of discontinuing precautions for a hospitalized patient with confirmed COVID-19.

For patients on Acute Care or non-intubated in the ICU:

1. Send a nasopharyngeal swab (NP) for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing on hospital day 7 or after 72 hours of symptom resolution, whichever is longer.
2. If first test is negative, send a second NP swab for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing - require two negative tests 24 hours apart for consideration of discontinuing precautions.
3. If either test is still positive, repeat the NP testing in 72 hours if the patient is still hospitalized.

For patients intubated in the ICU:

1. Send an NP swab and endotracheal aspirate for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing on hospital day 10.
2. If first tests are negative, send a second NP swab and endotracheal aspirate for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) testing - require negative tests 24 hours apart for consideration of discontinuing precautions.
3. If any of the tests are still positive, consider repeat testing in 72 hours if still hospitalized.

Please contact infection prevention & control once the tests 24 hours apart are all negative.
Isolation precautions can only be discontinued after review and approval by Infection Prevention & Control.

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