

BILH Updated Guidance for Discontinuing Precautions for Hospitalized Patients (Including Patients Boarding in the ED) with Suspected COVID-19

The following recommendations have been updated to incorporate changes to respiratory viral testing for the 2021-22 season. This guidance describes the conditions that should be met prior to considering discontinuation of precautions for patients with [suspected COVID-19](#).

For criteria for discontinuation of precautions in patients with confirmed COVID-19, please see [BILH Guidance for Discontinuation of COVID-19 Isolation for Patients with COVID-19 who are Immune Competent and Immune Compromised](#).

Note: This guidance is subject to change based upon CDC and DPH guidance.

Current COVID-19 PCR Results	Required Conditions to be Met
<p>Non-immunocompromised patients with all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 negative COVID-19 PCR 1 negative Influenza A/B PCR 1 negative RSV (if included in test platform) 	<p>One of the following conditions must be met to discontinue precautions for COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a clear alternative diagnosis per primary team. (Consider discussion with local institutional Infection Control as needed for questions on precautions.) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain second COVID-19 PCR at least 12-24 hours later and discontinue precautions if result is also negative (Influenza A/B PCR, RSV PCR or respiratory pathogen panel (RPP) should not be repeated) <p><i>Note: If concern for COVID-19 persists despite two negative PCR tests, continue isolation precautions for COVID Suspect status. (Consider Infectious Diseases consult for assistance with diagnosis and clinical decision-making.)</i></p>
<p>Immunocompromised patients with all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 negative COVID-19 PCR 1 negative influenza A/B PCR <p>AND EITHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 negative RSV PCR or 1 negative respiratory pathogen panel (RPP) (depending on test platform) 	
<p>Non-immunocompromised patients (regardless of RSV result, if included in test platform):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 negative COVID-19 PCR <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 positive Influenza A/B PCR 	<p>Adjust precautions based on Influenza A/B result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain Droplet precautions No 2nd COVID-19 test needed
<p>Immunocompromised patients:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 negative COVID-19 PCR <p>AND EITHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 positive influenza A/B or RSV PCR or 1 positive RPP for another respiratory pathogen 	<p>Adjust precautions based on RPP result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For patients with a positive influenza test, maintain Droplet precautions For other respiratory pathogens, follow the infection control precautions guidance for your facility No 2nd COVID-19 test needed