

BILH COVID-19 Definitions and Isolation Precautions: INPATIENT

Note that Personal Protective Equipment should always be used as indicated for Transmission-based precautions for other organisms, when indicated, and for Standard precautions (when at risk of splash or spray), even if not indicated specifically for COVID-related care as below.

COVID-19 Status	Personal Protective Equipment Requirements				Can this patient be cohorted?
	Surgical Mask	N95 Respirator (Disposable or Reusable)	Eye Protection	Gown & Gloves	
Asymptomatic <i>and</i> no known exposure¹	No	No	No	No	Yes Can cohort with: • Asymptomatic • Negative • Prior COVID-19
COVID-19 Negative Any patient with a negative COVID-19 PCR who is no longer a COVID-19 suspect	No	No	No	No	Yes Can cohort with: • Asymptomatic • Negative • Prior COVID-19
COVID-19 Quarantine Patients who are asymptomatic with a confirmed COVID-19 exposure ¹ . See Discontinuation of Precautions in patients on COVID-19 Quarantine .	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (Private room required <u>until</u> meets discontinuation of quarantine)
COVID-19 Suspect² Includes: • Symptomatic patients suspected of having COVID-19 • Patients with a persistent clinical concern for COVID-19 despite negative PCR results	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No (Private room required)
COVID-19 Positive³ Includes patients who do NOT meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation for patients with COVID-19 (immunocompetent and immunocompromised) and: • Positive COVID-19 PCR, or • Positive home antigen test meeting acceptability criteria	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes Can cohort with: • Positive • Prior COVID-19
Prior COVID-19⁴ Patients who were COVID-19 Positive AND meet the criteria for discontinuation of isolation for patients with COVID-19 (immunocompetent and immunocompromised) <u>until 90 days after COVID-19 diagnosis</u> (first positive COVID-19 PCR, home antigen test meeting acceptability criteria or clinical diagnosis)	No	No	No	No	Yes Can cohort with: • Positive • Asymptomatic • Negative • Prior COVID-19

¹ Exposure defined as one of the following: 1) confirmed exposure to someone they live with who was diagnosed with COVID-19, 2) exposure (within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated), **regardless of whether the patient was wearing a mask** (excludes contact with healthcare personnel wearing appropriate PPE), or 3) on home quarantine prior to admission/transfer by order of Department of Public Health

² If clinical suspicion remains for COVID-19 despite negative tests, continue use of precautions while additional evaluation is pursued

³ COVID-19 viral test is either a COVID-19 PCR or a [COVID-19 home antigen test meeting acceptability criteria](#)

⁴ If a patient experiences [rebound of COVID-19 symptoms](#) after improvement (generally 2-8 days after initial recovery, with or without antiviral treatment), place the patient back on isolation and return to COVID-19 Positive status. The start date for isolation should be reset to that of new symptom onset