



Orange County

ATTENTION

STEVEN M. NEUHAUS
County Executive

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Dr. Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhDc
Commissioner of Health

May 7, 2020

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, URGENT CARE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN, LABORATORIES AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #7
Updated Standing Isolation Orders, Discontinuation of Isolation and Clearance Letters for Release from Isolation and Quarantine

To date, there have been more than 9,500 cases of COVID-19 reported in Orange County. Please note that this situation continues to evolve rapidly.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are subject to a mandatory isolation order issued by the Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH) whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. On March 31, 2020, OCDOH issued Standing Mandatory Isolation Orders. **As of May 5th, 2020, OCDOH has updated the Standing Mandatory Isolation Orders to comply with the recent changes in both CDC and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance for the symptom-based strategy to discontinue isolation for persons with COVID-19.**

OCDOH is adopting CDC guidance for the discontinuation of home isolation. For persons recovered from COVID-19 illness, CDC recommends that isolation be maintained for at least 10 days after illness onset and at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery. Illness onset is defined as the date symptoms begin. Recovery is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications with progressive improvement or resolution of other symptoms. Please see below for specific details. Justification for this can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/strategy-discontinue-isolation.html>

OCDOH is adopting NYSDOH guidance recommending all persons who were hospitalized and/or live in congregate settings to be released from isolation if it has been at least 14 days since onset of symptoms. A copy of the recent guidance is attached.

We encourage all healthcare providers to provide clearance for their patients. To assist persons in both isolation (confirmed cases) or mandatory quarantine (contacts of confirmed cases), OCDOH has set up an electronic system to generate clearance letters. Patients can be directed to the [OCDOH Coronavirus Website](https://www.ocdoh.org/Coronavirus-Website) and click on “Online Clearance Letters”. The direct site can be found here <https://www.orangecountygov.com/1936/Coronavirus>.

We are asking all health care providers to please **UPDATE** the copy of the attached Standing Mandatory Isolation Order as of May 5th, 2020 to each patient with a positive COVID-19 test result via email, where possible. We also encourage all providers to post a copy of the order directly on your website and refer patients there. Orange County Department of Health will provide these orders in multiple languages on our website as well.

RELEASE OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Symptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation once they meet the following conditions:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND
 - At least **10 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- This approach will prevent most, but may not prevent all, instances of secondary spread. The risk of transmission after recovery is likely substantially less than that during illness.
 - To further reduce the risk, individuals returning from isolation should continue to practice proper hygiene protocols (e.g., hand washing, covering coughs) and avoid prolonged, close contact with vulnerable persons (e.g. compromised immune system, underlying illness, 70 years of age or older).

RELEASE OF ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Asymptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least **10 days** have passed since the date of their positive COVID-19 diagnostic test; AND
 - The individual has had no subsequent illness.

If you have questions, please call Orange County Department of Health at 845-291-2330.