

Criteria to Leave Isolation (to Leave Red Zone)

Residents who test positive and are symptomatic should be isolated (regardless of their vaccination status) until the following conditions are met:

- MUST CHECK ONE OF THESE TWO:**
 - If symptomatic:** At least 10 days have passed since symptom onset
 - 20 days for individuals who are **severely immunocompromised** — e.g., currently receiving chemotherapy, or recent organ transplant or who had **critical illness** — e.g., required intensive care)
- MUST PASS:** At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
- MUST PASS:** Any other symptoms have improved
- MUST PASS:** Residents who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should remain in the red zone until they have a negative test (per AFL 20-53.6)

Residents who **test positive and are asymptomatic throughout their infection** should be isolated for:

- MUST PASS:** isolated for at least 10 days following the date of their positive test; AND
- MUST PASS:** Residents who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should remain in the red zone until they have a negative test (per AFL 20-53.6)

CDC recommends *against* the use of the test-based strategy (two tests 24 hours apart) to discontinue isolation and transmission-based precautions for SARS-CoV-2 positive individuals, except under special circumstances. Facilities should use the symptoms or time-based strategy (above) for discontinuing isolation and transmission-based precautions for SARS-CoV-2 positive individuals. COVID-19 recovered individuals who have met criteria for discontinuation of isolation and transmission-based precautions and:

- Are within 90 days of a positive test can be admitted to the green “recovered” area of a SNF
- More than 90 days have passed since their prior positive test should be admitted to the “yellow” observation area of the SNF for 14 days since the date of their last potential new exposure

Facilities may refer to the following for additional guidance on resident placement and cohorting based on COVID-19 and influenza status:

- AFL 20-74.1: COVID-19 Recommendations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Resident Placement/Movement, and Staffing in SNFs (<https://tinyurl.com/ycxpfnju>)
- AFL 20-53.5: COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Recommendations for Testing of Health Care Personnel (HCP) and Residents at SNF (<https://tinyurl.com/2p8hk3yb>)

Footnotes: Definition and Detail

(1) **Fully vaccinated** means ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine

(2) **Close contact** means patient was within 6 feet of a person with SARS-CoV-2 infection for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. NOTE: In general, an acute care hospital stay is not considered an exposure unless that hospital is having a suspected or confirmed outbreak.

(3) **Yellow zone** means a separate observation area

(4) **NFs may consider acute care hospital days as part of the quarantine observation period** for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated new admissions as long as the following criteria are met:

- SNF is in regular communication w/ their LHD and/or the hospital infection preventionist and/or occupational health program, AND
- There is no suspected or confirmed COVID-19 transmission among patients or staff at the hospital.

(5) **Testing and 14-day quarantine are recommended for** unvaccinated or partially vaccinated residents readmitted after hospitalization or who leave the SNF for more than 24 hours, as well as for residents who leave the SNF for ambulatory care (e.g., ED, outpatient procedures, dialysis, or other clinic visits) when there is suspected or confirmed COVID-19 transmission at the outside facility. Testing (but not quarantine) is recommended for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated resident who leave the SNF for less than 24 hours and are readmitted. Residents should be tested 5-7 days after their return.