

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL COVID-19 COMMITTEE

Bulletin #219 – COVID-19 – ID-IPC Update

Dec. 21, 2022

As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, the IPC response is adapting, and protocols are being de-escalated in a practical manner with a focus on patient and health care worker safety.

Revised: [IPC Guidance: Symptom-Based Strategy for Discontinuing IPC Precautions for Persons with COVID-19](#)

This document was revised to reflect the following:

- The definition of **COVID-19 rebound infection after Paxlovid treatment** and the strategy supporting additional isolation requirements.
- The definition for **severely immunocompromised** has been revised. The document now includes the introduction of a test-based strategy in addition to the symptoms-based strategy to discontinue isolation precautions for the severely immunocompromised patient population following consultation with Medical Microbiology.
- A definition for **moderately immunocompromised** has been included and the symptom-based strategy for discontinuing isolation precautions.

New: [IPC Guidance - Cohorting Patients with Respiratory Viral Infections](#)

In response to the increase in patient admissions for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV, the ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee has developed a guidance document for the safe management and cohorting of patients with respiratory viral infections. The document provides clear guidance for cohorting based on the following three categories:

- **Lab-confirmed** viral pathogen isolated (COVID-19, Influenza A and B, RSV) or presence of respiratory symptoms pending diagnosis
- **Asymptomatic** patients identified as a close contact of a case or part of outbreak investigation
- No symptoms **and** no exposure history

Revised: [IPC Guidance: Outbreak Management of Influenza](#)

The *IPC Guidance: Outbreak Management of Influenza* document was revised to reflect current guidelines. Key updates include the following:

- **Definition of Influenza Outbreak Involving Staff and Inpatients**
Two laboratory confirmed cases in HCWs or patients within 72 hours with an epidemiological link suggesting ward transmission.
- **Duration of Isolation Precautions**
Patients are isolated for seven days from onset of illness or until 24 hours after resolution of fever and improvement in respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer. Day zero is the date of the onset of symptoms.
- **Post Exposure Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis Guidelines for Patients**
- **HCWs Post-Exposure Immunization, Antiviral Chemoprophylaxis Guidelines**
- **Employee Health Services Scenario Guidelines for Influenza**

New: [Santa Claus Visiting Pediatric Patients and Carolling During the Holiday Season](#)

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee supports re-introducing Santa Claus visits to pediatric units as long as it can be done safely, with physical distancing, masking and adherence to hand hygiene protocols.

The ID-IPC COVID-19 Committee is not in support of allowing carollers into Horizon facilities at this time.

Please visit the [IPC Resources COVID-19 Skyline page](#) for COVID-19 information.