

COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions Hospitalized Patients Who Test Positive for COVID-19

Why are we repeating tests? If my tests are still positive, what's the impact?

Repeat testing may be useful to determine if an individual is still shedding virus and will assist with decisions about level of isolation precautions and discharge planning. In some cases, these decisions can be based on symptoms.

Do I need to stay in the hospital until my tests return negative?

If ready to leave the hospital, patients may be discharged to home isolation even with positive testing. This decision is made in consultation with public health authorities.

Can my friends/family visit me while I am in the hospital?

Visitors now are restricted by orders from the San Francisco Department of Public Health. For more information on visitor restrictions including how UCSF is available to help you please go to [UCSF Visitor Assistance](#).

If my family members also test positive, do I need to be quarantined from them?

As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. Guidance for how to enact home isolation can be found at the [CDC Website](#).

Do I need to inform all of my recent contacts? Do they need testing? Who will let them know about this?

If you test positive for COVID-19, the Department of Public Health will be notified and will assist with notifying contacts and making recommendations about isolation and testing.

What's my prognosis? What does this mean to both my immediate and long-term health?

Prognosis of COVID-19 varies based on many factors, including age and other medical problems. Most people will recover from their illness but some will get sicker and may require hospitalization. A very small minority will die from COVID-19.

If I leave the hospital and still have symptoms, should I return for a repeat test? Do outpatient centers have testing abilities?

Patients admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 infections may be tested prior to discharge. The decision to repeat testing is made at the discretion of the treating team in consultation with public health authorities and the hospital infection prevention team.

How long will my symptoms last? What should I do if my symptoms don't improve?

Your symptoms will likely last several days but may continue for up to a couple of weeks. If your symptoms are worsening, you should contact your physician and seek medical attention. Additional guidance can be found at the [CDC Website](#).