

UCSF COVID-19 Patient Discontinuation of Isolation Provider Instructions

Healthcare Epidemiology & Infection Prevention

Background:

The UCSF Health Department of Healthcare Epidemiology & Infection Prevention (HEIP) has determined when patients infected with COVID-19 can discontinue novel respiratory isolation and when those patients can have a COVID Recovered banner. To expedite the review of isolation discontinuation requests, prepare for future surges and to allow more provider autonomy, HEIP is shifting to a provider-driven protocol with the assistance of Qualtrics. Future requests to remove 'COVID Confirmed' flags for patients with COVID-19 will not be processed if the Qualtrics survey is incomplete. Your responses to the survey will be documented in the patient's medical record.

New Process: My patient recently had COVID-19 and I want to remove their isolation.

What do I do?

1. Confirm your patient has had symptomatic improvement
2. Open the 'Consult to Inpatient/Ambulatory HEIP for COVID Recovered' Order
3. Click on the link to the Qualtrics survey within the Apex order and complete the survey
4. Your survey responses will generate an expected date to discontinue isolation.
5. Remove Novel Respiratory Isolation on the date listed for 'Isolation Discontinuation Date' and NOT before
 - a. The 'COVID Confirmed' Flag will be removed by HEIP by the next business day.
 - i. This means an infection flag mismatch may appear. This is okay. HEIP will correct the mismatch by the next business day.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Who can complete the Qualtrics survey?

- a. Any clinical provider (MD, DO, APP, RN) can complete the order to remove isolation for a patient. However, if you have a supervising provider, you will be asked to provide their name in the survey for documentation purposes.

2. I am a UCSF employee, and I was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. Can I use this Qualtrics survey to determine when I can return to work?

- a. No. This survey decision support is specific to patients only. For employee return to work guidance, please contact occupational health.

3. My patient needs to go for an urgent/emergent surgery/procedure, and I would like to discontinue isolation before surgery.

- a. Complete the Qualtrics survey (takes no more than 5 minutes) for recommendations on when to discontinue isolation.
 - i. You may discontinue novel respiratory isolation IF the date to discontinue isolation is on or before the date of the surgery/procedure.
 - ii. If the date of the urgent/emergent surgery is BEFORE the recommended date to discontinue isolation, then proceed with the surgery/procedure under novel respiratory isolation.

4. My patient is not hospitalized, but coming to UCSF for a scheduled procedure, and has a COVID Confirmed flag in their chart. What do I do to remove the flag before surgery?

- a. Complete the Qualtrics survey. If the date to discontinue isolation is either on the date you are completing the survey OR any date before the date you are completing the survey, then you do not need to initiate novel respiratory isolation upon the patient's arrival.
- b. HEIP will receive your survey results and typically removes COVID confirmed flags within the same day, but if it is a weekend, holiday or after hours (after 5 pm), we will address the outstanding COVID Confirmed flag by the next business day.

5. I completed the survey and I appropriately discontinued novel respiratory isolation, but an infection mismatch alert now appears. What do I do?

- a. Proceed with care without novel respiratory isolation. HEIP will remove the infection mismatch alert by the next business day.

6. I completed the survey, but I do not agree with the recommended date to discontinue isolation.

- a. Please refer to the UCSF Discontinuation of Isolation Guidelines [Here](#)
- b. Please review the UCSF Discontinuation of Isolation Flow Diagram [Here](#)
- c. If after reviewing the guidelines you disagree with the recommendation, you may contact covidrnteam@ucsf.edu. Of note, this email will only be reviewed during normal business hours, not on weekends and holidays.
- d. All emails sent to other HEIP email addresses will be forwarded to covidrnteam@ucsf.edu for review.
- e. **Calling HEIP infection preventionists will not expedite review of COVID Recovered requests.**

7. My patient is an adult with a hematologic malignancy, and I would like to discontinue novel respiratory isolation.

- a. Please contact the **HEM BMT HBC COVID-19 Pool** in Apex for guidance on when to discontinue isolation.

8. My patient had a positive COVID-19 test, but I suspect it is a false positive.

- a. You do not need to complete the Qualtrics survey. Please email covidrnteam@ucsf.edu to request a false positive evaluation.
- b. The email is REQUIRED to process false positive requests.
- c. If you call HEIP with an urgent false positive request, the infection preventionist will direct you to email covidrnteam@ucsf.edu.

9. My patient is hospitalized at BCH-San Francisco.

- a. You must complete the `.COVIDHOUSEHOLDCONTACTSDATACOLLECTIONTABLE`
- b. After completing the above dot phrase, please contact the visitor escalation committee (VisitorRequest@ucsf.edu). They will review the patient's household contact table and determine whether patient is appropriate to consider for discontinuation of isolation.
- c. If the visitor escalation committee recommends HEIP discontinue isolation, then proceed with the Qualtrics survey for specific date to discontinue isolation.