

This interim guidance is for staff at local and state health departments, infection prevention and control professionals, and healthcare personnel who are coordinating the home care and isolation<sup>1</sup> of people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, including persons under investigation (see **Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19**, in referenced resources). This includes patients evaluated in an outpatient setting who do not require hospitalization (i.e., patients who are medically stable and can receive care at home) or patients who are discharged home following a hospitalization with confirmed COVID-19.

In general, people should adhere to appropriate transmission-based isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission is thought to be low. Current information on COVID-19 is limited, thus home precautions should be conservative based on general recommendations for other coronaviruses, like Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and may last up to 14 days.

This document does not apply to patients in healthcare settings. For interim healthcare infection prevention and control recommendations, see **Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a Healthcare Setting** (in referenced resources). CDC will update this interim guidance as needed and as more information becomes available.

## Assess the suitability of the residential setting for home care

In consultation with state or local health department staff, a healthcare professional should assess whether the residential setting is appropriate for home care. Considerations for care at home include whether:

- The patient is stable enough to receive care at home.
- Appropriate caregivers are available at home.
- There is a separate bedroom where the patient can recover without sharing immediate space with others.
- Resources for access to food and other necessities are available.
- The patient and other household members have access to appropriate, recommended personal protective equipment (at a minimum, gloves and facemask) and are capable of adhering to precautions recommended as part of home care or isolation (e.g., respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, hand hygiene);
- There are household members who may be at increased risk of complications from COVID-19 infection (e.g., older people and people with severe chronic health conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes).

## Provide guidance for precautions to implement during home care

A healthcare professional should

- Provide CDC's **Interim Guidance for Preventing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities** (in referenced resources) to the patient, caregiver, and household members; and
- Contact their state or local health department to discuss criteria for discontinuing any such measures.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Isolation is defined as the separation or restriction of activities of an ill person with a contagious disease from those who are well.

## Referenced resources

- Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Patients Under Investigation (PUI) for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html)
- Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Patients Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in a Healthcare Setting: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/infection-control.html)
- Interim Guidance for Preventing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/guidance-prevent-spread.html)

Additional information on Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals on human infections with COVID-19 is available online at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html)

