



## **Interim Guidance for Discontinuation of Home Isolation for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**March 17, 2020**

Unless otherwise instructed by their local health department, patients with COVID-19 who are not hospitalized should remain isolated at home until **one** of the following conditions is met:

1. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**, at least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

or

2. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication), **and** improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), **and** 2 negative test results conducted on specimens collected at least 24 hours apart.

Healthcare providers and others who work in high-risk settings should check with their employer or occupational health program to determine whether additional criteria must be met before return to work.

For additional information, see [NC DHHS Guidance for Health Care Providers, Hospitals and Laboratories](#).

Note: Persons undergoing testing for COVID-19 (Persons Under Investigation) can be released from isolation if results of testing are negative.