MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID:	**MSHAN-20200507-00445-ALT (Health Alert)**
RECIPIENTS:	**All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and Healthcare Providers - Statewide**
	Thursday, May 7, 2020
SUBJECT:	**MSDH Guidance for Discontinuation of Isolation and Transmission-Based Precautions in Patients with COVID-19 May 7, 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

There have been many questions surrounding symptom-based versus test-based strategies for individuals with COVID-19 regarding the discontinuation of transmission-based precautions in healthcare settings, discontinuation of isolation for persons not in healthcare settings, and return to work for healthcare providers and others deemed critical or essential.

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) recommends a **time and symptom-based strategy** for the discontinuation of isolation and transmission-based precautions for patients with COVID-19.

Time and Symptom-based Strategy

For current inpatients and for those being discharged to a long-term care, nursing home or other facility, and for individuals not in healthcare settings, MSDH recommends that transmission-based precautions and isolation remain in place until:

- The patient has been fever-free for at least 72 hours (without the use of antipyretics) with improvement of symptoms, **and**
- At least 14 days have passed since the onset of illness.

Return to Work

Individuals deemed critical or essential, including healthcare providers, who have been fever-free for 72 hours (without the use of antipyretics) and for whom at least 10 days have passed since the onset of illness, may be allowed to return to work prior to the end of the 14 days isolation period while wearing a mask if their employer approves. They are otherwise to remain isolated at home for the full 14-day period.

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Cases of COVID-19 are placed on an MSDH Health Officer Order for Home Isolation that outlines the above time and symptom-based strategy for release from isolation and potential return to work.

Test-based Strategy

MSDH does not recommend a test-based strategy to discontinue isolation, to discharge from a hospital, or to return to work for any infected individual.

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist

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Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program:	MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier:	MSHAN-20200507-00445-ALT
Program (HAN) Type:	Health Alert
Status (Type):	Actual ()
Message Type:	Alert
Reference:	MSHAN-00445
Severity:	Unknown
Acknowledgement:	No
Sensitive:	Not Sensitive
Message Expiration:	Undetermined
Urgency:	Undetermined
Delivery Time:	600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency:	A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
Alerting Program:	The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
Message Identifier:	A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**).
Program (HAN) Type:	Categories of Health Alert Messages**.**
Health Alert:	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory:	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update:	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.
Health Info Service:	Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

	Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
	Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
	Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

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Message Type:

Alert:	Indicates an original Alert
Update:	Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel:	Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error:	Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of "Update" or "Cancel", this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. "n/a" = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme:	Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe:	Significant threat to life or property
Moderate:	Possible threat to life or property
Minor:	Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown:	Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive:	Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive:	Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).

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