



To: Alameda County Skilled Nursing Facilities

From: Alameda County Health Officer

Date: August 26, 2020

Re: Guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for Skilled Nursing Facilities

This memo is to inform you that, consistent with [CDC Guidance](#), the Alameda County Public Health Department is now recommending a “**time and symptom-based strategy**” for deciding when to stop using transmission-based precautions. We **do not recommend a test-based strategy** in most situations.¹

Discontinuing transmission-based precautions using a symptom and time-based strategy is safe. Doing so ensures that patients who are no longer infectious and do not require hospitalization are transferred to the appropriate lower level of care as soon as clinically appropriate.

Please follow the criteria below when accepting SNF transfers and admissions or readmissions of COVID-recovered patients from hospital to post-acute care:

- Admit or readmit patients who have recovered from COVID-19 and are past the infectious period, as determined by the symptom and time-based strategy.
- **Do not** require proof of a negative test before accepting COVID-recovered patients.
- Place COVID-recovered patients in your “green zone” without additional testing. These patients are no longer considered to be infectious.
- Asymptomatic, COVID-recovered patients do not need to be retested during response-driven testing for 90 days from date of COVID-19 (+) test.

For more details, please see the 7/29/2020 Health Update [here](#).

¹For specific circumstances in which a test-based strategy would be appropriate, consult with an infectious disease expert.