



Health Advisory:

Blanket Isolation and Quarantine Directives for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19; Healthcare Provider Responsibilities

May 15, 2020

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

- On May 4, 2020, the San Francisco Health Officer issued a Blanket Isolation Directive that will apply to all persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, as well as a Blanket Quarantine Directive that will apply to close contacts of COVID-19 cases.
- Issuing Blanket Directives facilitates prompt messaging to persons with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and their close contacts that they have been directed to follow and have a personal responsibility to follow isolation and quarantine guidelines.
- Effective May 12, 2020, SFDPH directs health care partners to disseminate the Blanket Directives, plus Home Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines, to patients with COVID-19 undergoing diagnostic testing, or who are presumptively diagnosed with COVID-19 without testing, before they leave the healthcare or testing facility.
- A packet containing the Blanket Directives and the Home Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines is posted online at <http://www.sfcddcp.org/covid19hcp> under **Isolation & Quarantine Directives**.
- We greatly appreciate your assistance with getting these materials to your eligible patients immediately, to help prevent further community transmission of COVID-19.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF CLINICIANS AND COVID-19 TESTING SITES:

1. Provide the Blanket Directives and the Home Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines to your patients who are coming in for care or who contact you:
 - a. With COVID-19 symptoms undergoing diagnostic testing for COVID-19. Providers are encouraged to test persons with any ONE of the following symptoms that are new and not otherwise explained: subjective or objective fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, chills, headache, body aches, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, diarrhea, runny nose, or nasal congestion
 - b. For whom you clinically suspect COVID-19 (tested or not)
 - c. With COVID-19 confirmed by a diagnostic laboratory test
 - d. Without symptoms but getting tested for COVID-19



e. Who are close contacts of a person with COVID-19

2. Have patients follow instructions that are in the cover page

- a. This information gives instructions as to which guidelines to follow before and after receipt of COVID-19 test results
- b. Instruct them to do the following

If patient is	Instruct them to:
A close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	Follow Quarantine Steps. If COVID-19 test results return positive, patient should then follow Isolation Steps. If COVID-19 test results return negative, patient should continue to Quarantine.
Symptomatic, not a close contact	Follow Isolation Steps until COVID-19 results return
And COVID-19 results are positive	Continue to follow Isolation Steps
And COVID-19 results are negative	Remain in isolation until 72 hours after fever has resolved without anti-pyretics and symptoms have been improving. If in close contact with a vulnerable person, as defined below (https://www.sfgdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/coronavirus-2019-information-for-healthcare-providers/#1588177474028-0d12059c-ca47), patient should consider remaining in Isolation for the entire period as described in Isolation Steps.
And the patient did not test but you are clinically diagnosing them with COVID-19	Follow Isolation Steps
Asymptomatic, not a close contact	No need to isolate or quarantine while awaiting COVID-19 test results
And COVID-19 results are positive	Follow Isolation Steps
And COVID-19 results are negative	No further action, resume regular activities

3. Instruct your patient:

- a. To carefully read and follow the steps in the Home Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines;
- b. If you diagnose suspected COVID-19 or there is a positive diagnostic test for COVID-19, to inform their Close Contacts that they need to self-quarantine according to the steps described in the Home Isolation and Quarantine Guidelines and share the Health Officer Quarantine Directive and the Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines with them.



- 4. Assess the patient's ability to self-isolate or self-quarantine where they currently live, as well as their ability to travel to their place of self-isolation or quarantine without using public transit, taxi, or ride-sharing.**
 - a. A patient is unable to self-isolate or quarantine if they share a room where they cannot adequately physically distance, or a bathroom or kitchen facility that they cannot adequately disinfect. Persons living in shelters cannot adequately self-isolate or self-quarantine, and neither can many persons living on the street, in an SRO, in a residential treatment center, or in another congregate living situation.
 - b. For patients needing assistance to obtain temporary alternative housing for isolation or quarantine, or patients who cannot travel safely to their place of isolation or quarantine without using public transit, taxi, or ride-sharing, or who need support to obtain food, medicine pickup, pet care or food, cleaning supplies, counseling, or social support, healthcare providers may call the COVID-19 Containment Line at 628-652-2810 (7am-8pm daily).
 - c. If a patient who is required to isolate or quarantine refuses to do so or leaves against medical advice, healthcare providers can call 628-652-2810 (7am-8pm daily) or email covid19AMArecovery@sfdph.org.
 - d. If appropriate housing or transport cannot be arranged after hours, healthcare providers should hold the patient at their facility, if possible, until the following day.
- 5. Healthcare providers with questions about these matters may call the COVID-19 Clinical Consultation Line at 415-554-2830 or check answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Blanket Isolation & Quarantine Directives, posted at <http://www.sfcdcp.org/covid19hcp>**
- 6. Patients who have questions about these matters may call 311 or check answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Blanket Isolation & Quarantine Directives, posted at <http://www.sfcdcp.org/covid19>**

Program Contact Information:

Communicable Disease Control Unit
Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Population Health Division
Tel: (415) 554-2830
Email: cdcontrol@sfdph.org
Fax: (415) 554-2848
<https://www.sfcdcp.org/>