

Boston Medical Center COVID-19 Clinical Criteria for Discharge

Main clinical criteria for discharge to home

1. Overall improvement in the fever curve without antipyretics. No fever spikes ≥ 101 F for ≥ 48 hours
2. Improved or stable respiratory symptoms (e.g. improved shortness of breath or cough) and improved or stable oxygen requirement for ≥ 48 hours
3. Improved or stable laboratory data including inflammatory markers if they were followed during the admission (especially C-reactive protein, ferritin and lactate dehydrogenase)

Additional comments

- When making a decision to discharge a patient, the team should include time since onset of initial symptoms. Patients within 6-9 days since symptom onset are at highest risk for complications.
- All known COVID-infected patients with no PCP or with a BMC PCP who are discharged home will automatically receive at least one follow-up call within 24-48h of discharge to assess for symptoms. Community health centers (CHC) patients have a separate workflow; please notify the CHC in question at the time of discharge.

Discharge checklist for all COVID-infected patients

	Working phone and up-to-date contact information on Epic (please note that clinicians can now modify the demographics section to update phone numbers)
	Information on primary care team up-to-date on Epic
	Appropriate home setting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient can adhere to home isolation (separate bedroom) • No household members are either pregnant, immunosuppressed, or have a history of end-stage renal disease • Appropriate caregivers are present in the home, if applicable • For patient experiencing homelessness, please follow separate guidelines providing guidance for this group
	Quarantine education provided at discharge to patient and family. Patient and family have access to face covering, and patient has surgical mask for transport.

Special considerations/populations

- **COVID positive/high probability patients experiencing homelessness who leave against medical advice (AMA):**
 - Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM: Contact Deanna Faretra (pager 0735) who will coordinate with Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC)’s Homeless Services Bureau and BMC Infection Control. Deanna is also a resource for patients who are contemplating leaving AMA.
 - Nights and weekends: The floor team should call BPHC’s Homeless Services Bureau at 617-645-9680 as soon as possible and email BMC infection control (DG-HospitalEpidemiology and cc: Deanna.Faretra@bmc.org).

Testing considerations at Discharge

Please see the BMC protocol on “COVID-19 Removal of Isolation Precautions PUI and COVID-19 patients” for access to updated and full guidance.