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TO: Healthcare Providers, Healthcare Facilities, Clinical Laboratories, and Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)  
Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC)

**HEALTH ADVISORY: CRITERIA FOR DISCONTINUATION OF ISOLATION OF PATIENTS WITH COVID-19**

SUMMARY

- Community transmission of COVID-19 has been detected in multiple locations in the United States, including New York State.
- New York State has 105 cases to date.
- Many contacts of cases and other individuals are on [mandatory or precautionary quarantine](#).
- Local health departments are required to adhere to the following minimum criteria for the discontinuation of [mandatory isolation](#) for a confirmed case of COVID-19, which are based on the [relevant guidelines](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

DISCONTINUATION OF MANDATORY ISOLATION FOR PERSONS WITH CONFIRMED COVID-19

The discontinuation of mandatory isolation of persons with confirmed COVID-19 includes the following minimum criteria:

- It has been at least seven days since the initial positive test for COVID-19
- Resolution of fever without the use of antipyretic medication
- Improvement in the signs and symptoms of the illness.
- Negative results for a molecular assay for COVID-19 from two consecutive sets of nasopharyngeal (NP) and oropharyngeal (OP) swabs at least 24 hours apart. This means a total of 4 negative specimens, 2 NP and 2 OP. NP and OP swabs can both go in the same VTM vial.

Health care facilities and providers can make the determination using testing at the Wadsworth Center, the public health lab of New York State, the New York City Public Health Laboratory or through testing at commercial laboratories. Assistance can be obtained through the New York State COVID-19 Call Center at 1-888-364-3065 or by calling your local health department.