

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In re: 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**STANDING COMMISSIONER'S ORDER
FOR ISOLATION OF LAB CONFIRMED COVID-19**

Pursuant to Section 2100 of the Public Health Law and Section
873.401 of the Westchester County Sanitary Code

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising that further cases may appear in any country; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 7, 2020, Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York, declared a State of Emergency by Executive Order 202 as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, Donald Trump, the President of the United States of America, declared a National Emergency as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 2100 of the Public Health Law mandates that all local health officers, being Commissioners of Health and Public Health Directors, as the case may be, of County Health Departments, guard against the introduction of such communicable diseases as are designated in the

State Sanitary Code, by the exercise of proper and vigilant medical inspection and control of all persons and things infected with or exposed to such diseases; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has issued “2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)” (“NYSDOH Guidance”); and

WHEREAS the NYSDOH Guidance requires that any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 be isolated; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, I issued a “STANDING COMMISSIONER’S ORDER FOR ISOLATION OF LAB CONFIRMED COVID-19”; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2020, the New York State Department of Health issued a “HEALTH ADVISORY: COVID-19 RELEASE FROM HOME ISOLATION” (“Clearance Criteria”); and

WHEREAS, as of March 28, 2020, the County of Westchester has over 7,000 individuals who have had laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infections; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the number of persons infected will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, given the volume of positive test results and the critical need to protect the public health;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2100 of the Public Health Law of the State of New York and 10 NYCRR 2.25(f) and Section 873.401 of the Westchester County Sanitary Code, as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Health, I do hereby:

ORDER that, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 through laboratory testing is required to remain isolated at the individual’s place of residence until such time as

that individual meets the Clearance Criteria as set forth by the New York State Department of Health;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, any person so isolated must adhere to the Isolation Protocol attached hereto;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY order that, any doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall provide a copy of this Standing Order to any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 upon delivery of the results of the positive test, or shall inform said person of this Standing Order and direct the individual to the website for the Westchester County Department of Health to obtain a copy. Documentation shall be maintained that this provision has been complied with, and shall be provided to the Westchester County Department of Health upon request;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, every doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall conspicuously place a copy of this Standing Order in their place of business, where it may be viewed by any persons seeking treatment or testing;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY give notice that the failure to comply with the provisions of this Order may subject an individual to criminal prosecution pursuant to the terms of Section 12-b of the Public Health Law;


FURTHER, I DO HEREBY give notice that an individual subject to this Standing Order has a right to challenge this Order in a Court of competent jurisdiction and to be represented by legal counsel or to have counsel provided, and that if the person qualifies to have counsel provided, such counsel will be made available. To the extent necessary, the Health Department will request that an individual subject to isolation be allowed to participate in any such proceeding by telephonic or video-conferencing means;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, the Standing Order issued by my hand on March 23, 2020 is hereby deemed revoked;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, any person subject to the March 23, 2020 Standing Order remains subject to this Standing Order in accordance with the terms contained herein;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, this Standing Order shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by my hand.

DATED: WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK
MARCH 29, 2020



DR. SHERLITA AMLER, M.D., COMMISSIONER
WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Westchester County Department of Health
Isolation Protocol for 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

1. I will remain at my location for the duration of the isolation period.
2. I am not permitted to attend work or school outside my home. I will not visit enclosed public spaces (grocery stores, drugstores, department stores, shopping malls, theaters, religious services, community centers) or attend any social gatherings.
3. WCDH or NYSDOH contact tracers may communicate with me at least daily to check my condition and symptoms during the isolation period. I am required to answer their questions regarding my condition. During the isolation period, WCDH may make unannounced visits.
4. If I am housed together with family or others then such household members are permitted to remain in the home but will not be permitted to leave the home. Other non-household members/visitors are not permitted in my living quarters. I will not share my bed, bedroom or bathroom with household members and will keep my bedroom door closed. I will not eat in the same room with household members and I will not share linens, towels, eating utensils, cups and plates. I will limit my time in common household area such as bathrooms and kitchens. If a bathroom must be used by a person other than the person requiring isolation, the toilet seat and any touched surfaces are to be disinfected by the person requiring isolation after each use. A diluted household bleach solution is optimal for such disinfection. Disinfection guidance can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>
5. Persons in the household can walk outside their house on their own property, but they must not come within six feet of neighborhoods or other members of the public. Persons living in a multiple dwelling may not utilize common stairways or elevators to access the outside. Likewise I need to refrain from walking in my neighborhood.
6. All household members will be informed of my isolation status.
7. Garbage should be bagged and left outside my door for pickup.
8. I am aware that if I become symptomatic or ill, those persons staying with me in my living quarters, may be subject to mandatory isolation. If I have a fever of $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ / $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ (or feel feverish) or develop any other symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection, I will report this to the WCDH or NYS contact tracers as part of my daily monitoring. I will also call my medical provider and inform my provider that I am under isolation for COVID-19 and have become symptomatic. If I don't have a provider I will ask the WCDH or NYS contact tracer where I can go for medical care:

Symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.

9. If I, or any household member, experiences a life threatening condition, call 911 and notify the caller that a person in the living quarters is under isolation for 2019-nCoV infection so that responders can take proper precautions.
10. As part of my daily monitoring, I will notify the WCDH or NYS contact tracers of any needed care or services such as food, supplies, medicine or other supports that I require. If I require immediate attention, I can call **866-588-0195**
11. I, or my legal guardian, may contact the WCDH for any questions or concerns with this protocol. Please contact the number above.



May 30, 2020

TO: Local Health Departments (LHDs), Healthcare Providers, and Healthcare Facilities
FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH)

HEALTH ADVISORY: SYMPTOM-BASED STRATEGY TO DISCONTINUE HOME ISOLATION FOR PERSONS WITH COVID-19

SUMMARY

- This document provides updated guidance on releasing individuals from home isolation as a result of COVID-19 illness. The information contained herein supersedes [NYS DOH guidance issued on March 28, 2020](#), and is not intended to be applied to settings such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, or adult care facilities.
- In the context of community transmission, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) has indicated that an interim strategy based on time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery can be implemented to establish the end of isolation.
- NYS DOH is adopting the CDC guidance and recommends that for persons with COVID-19 illness recovering at home (or other home-like setting, such as a hotel), maintain isolation for at least 10 days after illness onset and at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery.
 - Illness onset is defined as the date symptoms began.
 - Recovery is defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, with progressive improvement or resolution of other symptoms.

BACKGROUND

For an emerging pathogen like SARS-CoV-2, the patterns and duration of illness and infectivity have not been fully described. However, available data indicate that shedding of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in upper respiratory specimens declines after onset of symptoms. At 10 days after illness onset, recovery of replication-competent virus in viral culture (as a proxy of the presence of infectious virus) is decreased and approaches zero. Although persons may produce PCR-positive specimens for up to 6 weeks (Xiao, 2020), there is no evidence to suggest that these PCR-positive samples represent the presence of infectious virus. Furthermore, among patients who have recovered and have detectable RNA in upper respiratory specimens, concentrations of RNA after 3 days are generally in ranges where virus has not been reliably cultured by CDC. These data have been generated from adults across a variety of age groups and with varying severity of illness. Data from children and infants is not presently available.

Key findings and references are summarized below:

- Viral burden measured in upper respiratory specimens declines after onset of illness (CDC unpublished data, Midgely 2020, Young 2020, Zou 2020, Wölfel 2020).
- At this time, replication-competent virus has not been successfully cultured more than 9 days after onset of illness. The statistically estimated likelihood of recovering replication-

competent virus approaches zero by 10 days (CDC unpublished data, Wölfel 2020, Arons 2020).

- As the likelihood of isolating replication-competent virus decreases, anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgM and IgG can be detected in an increasing number of persons recovering from infection (Wölfel 2020).
- Attempts to culture virus from upper respiratory specimens have been largely unsuccessful when viral burden is in low but detectable ranges (i.e., Ct values higher than 33-35^[1])(CDC unpublished data).
- Following recovery from clinical illness, many patients no longer have detectable viral RNA in upper respiratory specimens. Among those who continue to have detectable RNA, concentrations of detectable RNA 3 days following recovery are generally in the range at which replication-competent virus has not been reliably isolated by CDC (CDC unpublished data, Young 2020).
- No clear correlation has been described between length of illness and duration of post-recovery shedding of detectable viral RNA in upper respiratory specimens (CDC unpublished data, Midgely 2020, Wölfel 2020).
- Infectious virus has not been cultured from urine or reliably cultured from feces (CDC unpublished data, Midgely 2020, Wölfel 2020); these potential sources pose minimal if any risk of transmitting infection and any risk can be sufficiently mitigated by good hand hygiene.

Additional information on CDC's interim strategy is available at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/strategy-discontinue-isolation.html>.