

Criteria for Discontinuation of Special Airborne Contact Isolation within the Duke Health System

Symptom-based Strategy

Special airborne contact isolation can safely be discontinued when the following criteria are met. If the patient never had a fever or other symptoms (as is the case with asymptomatic patients), they automatically fulfill criteria A4, A5, B3 and B4. Patients should be placed into category A or B.

A. 10-day criteria for discontinuing Special Airborne Contact isolation: Applies to “immunocompetent” patients who are asymptomatic or have mild, or moderate illness

Criteria	Met?
1. Patient was never hospitalized, or if hospitalized, was hospitalized at DUHS, required <6L oxygen during their illness, AND did not require ICU care for COVID-19 infection	
2. Patient does not have a severe immunocompromising condition*	
3. At least 10 days have passed since the date of the positive test	
4. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever	
5. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved	

If all the above criteria are met, special airborne contact isolation can be safely discontinued for this patient population.

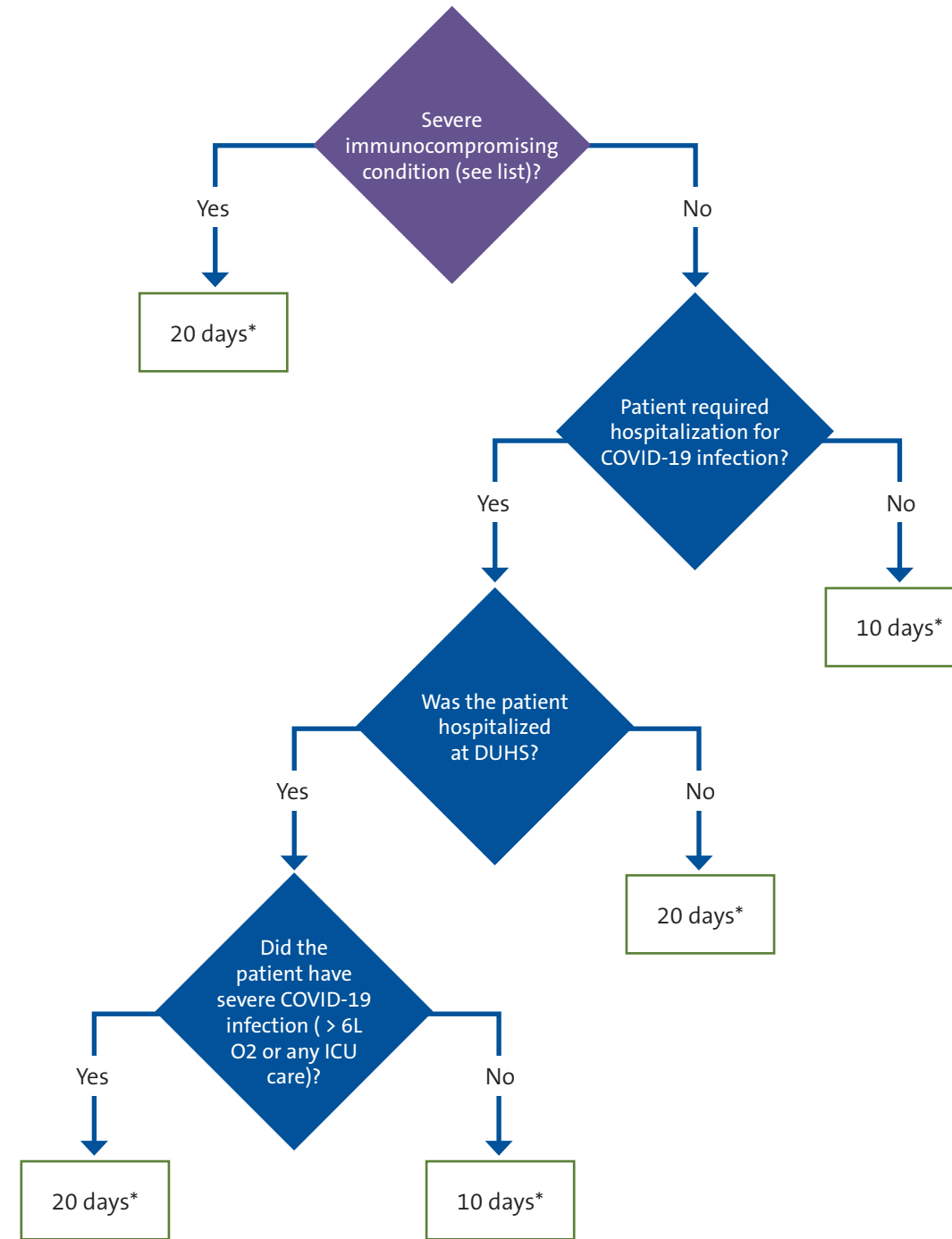
B. 20-day criteria for discontinuing Special Airborne Contact isolation: Applies to severely immunocompromised patients with any level of disease (including asymptomatic infection), or immunocompetent patients with severe/critical illness

Criteria	Met?
1. Patient was hospitalized outside of DUHS, required >6L oxygen during their illness, required ICU care for COVID-19 infection, OR is severely immunocompromised	
2. At least 20 days have passed since the date of the positive test	
3. At least 24 hours have passed since last fever	
4. Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved	

If all the above criteria are met, special airborne contact isolation can be safely discontinued for this patient population.

Note: In patients with multiple diseases processes, criteria A4, A5, B3 and B4 are intended to reflect COVID-related symptoms only. Therefore, patients who have a fever or other symptoms with a clear alternative diagnosis may still meet criteria to come off Special Airborne Contact precautions.

Discontinuing SAC



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Severe Immunocompromising Conditions:

- Primary immunodeficiency
- Active solid organ cancer on chemotherapy
- Hematologic malignancy
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant recipient
- Solid organ transplant recipient
- Poorly controlled HIV (CD4 < 200)
- Steroids >20mg per day for >2 weeks
- Other immunosuppressive medications (e.g. infliximab, etc.)

*Earliest date of eligibility for discontinuing Special Airborne Contact isolation. Note, the date of the first positive test = Day 1. Patients must also be clinically improving and must be fever-free for at least 24 hours.