



City of Wichita Falls

Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District

1700 Third St. | Wichita Falls, TX 76301 | 940-761-7800 | www.health.cwftx.net

Clearance Procedures for COVID19

07/31/20

A CASE, with mild to moderate disease¹ and not identified as severely immunocompromised³:

- Case (who has/had symptoms) must remain in isolation for 14 days from symptom onset, to include 3 consecutive days symptom free.
 - If the individual has symptoms that are attributable to a chronic illness but also are a symptom of COVID19, the individual will need one negative test to be able to differentiate between COVID19 and the chronic illness; one is acceptable, but additional testing may be needed, if clinically indicated at the request of the individual's health care provider.
- Case (who did not/does not have symptoms) must remain in isolation for 10 days from the date of the positive test.
- Case is cleared when these criteria are met.
- The following are the next steps, but do not require follow-up once the parameters are given. The appropriate clearance must be selected based on whether the individual chooses to test or not test.
 - For any individual who will be returning to a congregate setting⁴ or health care setting, they have the following options:
 1. Once the above criteria are met, the case may choose to retest and use the following guidelines:
 - **While test is pending**, case may leave home, but must wear a mask and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If positive**, case must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 15 (or day 11 for asymptomatic)) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If negative**, case is not required to wear a mask while leaving home, but it is advisable at all times; individuals **MUST** follow any state laws/Governor's Orders.
 2. Once the above criteria are met, the case may choose not to retest. The individual will be treated as if they tested positive



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and must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 15 (or day 11 for asymptomatic)) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing).

- For any individual who will not be returning to a congregate setting⁴ or health care setting, they may want to retest – it is not required; use the following guidelines:
 - **While test is pending**, case may leave home, but must wear a mask and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If positive**, case must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 15 (or day 11 for asymptomatic)) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If negative**, case is not required to wear a mask while leaving home, but it is advisable at all times; individuals **MUST** follow any state laws/Governor's Orders.

For a CASE, with severe disease² and/or identified as severely immunocompromised³:

- Case (who has/had symptoms) must remain in isolation for 20 days from symptom onset, to include 3 consecutive days symptom free.
 - If the individual has symptoms that are attributable to a chronic illness but also are a symptom of COVID19, the individual will need at least one negative test to be able to differentiate between COVID19 and the chronic illness; one is acceptable, but additional testing may be needed, if clinically indicated at the request of the individual's health care provider.
- Case (who did not/does not have symptoms – this would just be for asymptomatic severely immune compromised) must remain in isolation for 14 days from the date of the positive test.
- Case is cleared when these criteria are met.
- The following are the next steps, but do not require follow-up once the parameters are given. The appropriate clearance must be selected based on whether the individual chooses to test or not test.
 - For any individual who will be returning to a congregate setting⁴ or health care setting, they have the following options:



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1. Once the above criteria are met, the case may choose to retest and use the following guidelines:
 - **While test is pending**, case may leave home, but must wear a mask and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If positive**, case must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 21) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If negative**, case is not required to wear a mask while leaving home, but it is advisable at all times; individuals **MUST** follow any state laws/Governor's Orders.
2. Once the above criteria are met, the case may choose not to retest. The individual will be treated as if they tested positive and must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 21) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing).
 - For any individual who will not be returning to a congregate setting⁴ or health care setting, they may want to retest – it is not required; use the following guidelines;
 - **While test is pending**, case may leave home, but must wear a mask and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing).
 - **If positive**, case must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 21) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing)
 - **If negative**, case is not required to wear a mask while leaving home, but it is advisable at all times; individuals **MUST** follow any state laws/Governor's Orders.

A HOUSEHOLD CONTACT of a case:

- Must remain in quarantine for a period of 14 days from improvement in symptoms in the case.
- If the CASE is asymptomatic, the time for the household contact is 14 days from the date of the positive test of the case.



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- If symptoms develop, encourage testing immediately. If positive, treat as CASE. If negative, stay with prior bullet.
 - If symptomatic contact refuses testing, they will be subject to the following requirements:
 - Once the 14 day criteria, as above, are met, the individual will be treated as if they tested positive and must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 15) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing).

A CONTACT of a case (within 2 days prior to symptom onset in the case until present day):

- Must remain in quarantine for a period of 14 days from date of exposure to the case.
- If symptoms develop, encourage testing immediately. If positive, treat as CASE. If negative, stay with prior bullet.
 - If symptomatic contact refuses testing, they will be subject to the following requirements:
 - Once the 14 day criteria (14 days from symptom onset in the contact), as above, are met, the individual will be treated as if they tested positive and must wear a mask while leaving the home for a period of 14 days (this starts on day 15) and take appropriate precautions (limit contact, hand-washing, physical distancing).

Employers, to include healthcare facilities, may require stricter return to work standards. Clearance from the Health District does not necessarily indicate a return to work is authorized by the employer. Follow the above guidelines regardless of employers requirements. Individuals are to communicate directly with their employer and medical providers regarding clearance requirements.

Definitions:

1. *Mild to Moderate COVID19 Disease: no hospitalization due to COVID19*
2. *Severe or Critical COVID19 Disease: hospitalization due to COVID19*
3. *Severely Immunocompromised: as determined by a physician or a case indicating they are on chemotherapy for cancer, have untreated HIV infection,*



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have a immunodeficiency disorder and receipt of prednisone >20mg/day for more than 14 days.

- 4. Congregate Setting: an environment where a number of people reside, meet or gather in close proximity for either a limited or extended period of time. Examples of congregate settings include homeless shelters, group homes, prisons, detention centers, schools and workplaces where employees work in close proximity or directly with the general public.*