# Interfacility Transfer Rules for Patients with Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receiving Institution^</th>
<th>Transfer Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **LTCF/SNF** (Long-Term Care/Skilled Nursing Facility) | If patient is being RETURNED to the LTCF/SNF of origin:  
Patient may be transferred when clinically indicated  
➡️ Continue standard, contact, and droplet transmission-based precautions at the receiving facility*  
If patient is a new admission to the receiving LTCF/SNF:  
Patients with confirmed COVID-19 may be transferred if they meet one of the 3 criteria below.  
If patient is being transferred to a Group Setting:  
Patients with confirmed COVID-19 may only be transferred when there are no transmission-based precautions (must meet either criteria #2 or #3). If the institution can follow transmission-based precautions, then any of the 3 criteria are acceptable. |
| **Group Setting (Non-Medical)** | 1. 10 days have passed since admission AND no fever x 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.  
➡️ Continue standard, contact, and droplet transmission-based precautions at the receiving facility*  
2. Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement of respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND two serial negative tests for SARS-CoV-2, drawn at least 24 hours apart.  
➡️ No transmission-based precautions required for transfer.  
3. 14 days have passed since admission AND no fever x 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.  
➡️ No transmission-based precautions required for transfer. |
| **Dedicated COVID-19 LTCF/SNF Facility** | Patients with confirmed COVID-19 may be transferred when clinically indicated. |
Facilities should be prepared to accept confirmed COVID-19 patients when the Transfer Requirements are met.

^Includes Psychiatric or Mental health facilities: Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers, Skilled Nursing Facilities- Special Treatment Programs, Psychiatric Health Facilities, Crisis Residential Treatment Programs, Behavioral / Mental Health Urgent Care Centers, Enriched Residential Services (board and care w/ additional services) and Enriched Residential Care (board and care w/ FSP), Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (kids programs).

*Transmission-based precautions should be continued for 14 days after hospital admission. Patient should be preferably placed in a location designated to care for COVID-19 patients. The patient may be placed in a shared room with other confirmed COVID patients.

In cases of hospital overload, this discharge guidance may be adjusted by the Department of Public Health.

Patients should not be transferred if the receiving facility cannot maintain Transmission Based Precautions.

Hospitals are asked to notify LAC DPH when discharging laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patients. LAC DPH approval is not required prior to discharge and facilities should follow guidance in the Hospital Discharge/Transfer section of the Healthcare Facilities page for more details.


Patients WITHOUT COVID on Next Page
# Interfacility Transfer Rules for Patients without COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LTCF/SNF</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Long-Term Care/Skilled Nursing Facility)</td>
<td><strong>No clinical concern for COVID-19</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If the patient was admitted for non-infection related reason, (i.e. cerebrovascular accident or fall) and had no fever or respiratory symptoms of infection; <strong>–or–</strong>&lt;br&gt;• If the patient was admitted for infectious syndrome not consistent with COVID-19 and another etiology is established (e.g. cellulitis, bacteremia)&lt;br&gt;→ the patient may be transferred to accepting facility and does not require testing nor transmission-based precautions.*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accepting facility may not require a negative test result for COVID-19 as criteria for admission or readmission of residents hospitalized with no clinical concern for COVID-19.

**Low clinical suspicion**

| | **If the patient was admitted for an infectious syndrome possibly consistent with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, malaise, cough) and they meet ALL of the following criteria:** |
| | • Low pre-test probability of COVID-19 (no known contact with a confirmed or suspect case; transferred from a healthcare facility not experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak); **AND** |
| | • Alternative diagnosis established, confirmed with microbiologic or virologic testing; **AND** |
| | • Clinical improvement and no fever x 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications; **AND** |
| | • One negative SARS CoV-2 test.<br>→ the patient may be transferred to accepting facility and does not require transmission-based precautions.*<br>**→If all four criteria not met,** follow interfacility transfer rules for laboratory confirmed COVID-19

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**Patient Investigated for Possible COVID-19:**

| | **Contact with a confirmed or suspect case;** |
| | **There is clinical concern for COVID-19.** |

If patient meets the following criteria: Two serial negative tests for SARS CoV-2, drawn at least 24 hours apart, then:<br>→ patient may be transferred [**NOTE: Group Settings that cannot follow transmission-based precautions cannot take patient until the patient has been afebrile for 72 hours AND has clinical improvement.**]<br>Transmission-based precautions at receiving facility should be discontinued after patient has been afebrile for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications AND clinical improvement.<br>→ otherwise, follow interfacility transfer rules for laboratory confirmed COVID-19

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Los Angeles County Department of Public Health<br>http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/nco...
Facilities should be prepared to accept patients when the Transfer Requirements are met.

^Includes Psychiatric or Mental health facilities: Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers, Skilled Nursing Facilities- Special Treatment Programs, Psychiatric Health Facilities, Crisis Residential Treatment Programs, Behavioral / Mental Health Urgent Care Centers, Enriched Residential Services (board and care w/ additional services) and Enriched Residential Care (board and care w/ FSP), Short Term Residential Treatment Programs (kids programs).

*No current requirement to initiate Transmission Based Precautions for COVID-19 after hospital discharge. Receiving facility, at their discretion, may implement Transmission Based Precautions. Receiving facility should not ask the sending facility for additional COVID-19 testing. These patients should NOT be placed in a location designed for COVID-19 patients and may NOT be placed in a shared room with other COVID-19 patients.

In cases of hospital overload, this discharge guidance may be adjusted by the department of public health to fit individual patient needs.


Zou et al. NEJM March 18, 2020

Home Discharge Rules on Next Page
# Home Discharge Rules for Patients with Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Discharge Requirements</th>
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</table>
| **Home or Non-Congregate, Non-Healthcare Setting** | - 7 days since symptom onset AND no fever x 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.  
  - **No restrictions.** Patient is considered non-infectious for the purpose of discharge |
| | - Less than 7 days since symptom onset or febrile  
  - Notify Public Health  
  - Transport home by private conveyance or medical transport. (Avoid public transportation, no rideshare/taxi.)  
  - Provide guidance on **self-isolation** until end of infectious period  
  - Advise any household members that they will need to self-quarantine for at least 14 days after last contact with this patient. Provide [home quarantine](#) instructions  
  - If the patient lives with others and is not able to adequately self-isolate advise that:  
    - The self-quarantine period of all household members will be extended to 14 days after the end of the patient’s isolation period  
    - Every effort should be made to relocate household members at risk for experiencing severe illness if infected (e.g., age>65 years, pregnant, and/or medical co-morbidities) |

Hospitals are asked to notify LAC DPH when discharging laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patients. LAC DPH approval is not required prior to discharge and facilities should follow guidance in the Hospital Discharge/Transfer section of the [Healthcare Facilities](#) page for more details.
Transfers from one LTCF/SNF to another LTCF/SNF or to other Group Settings

- **SNFs experiencing confirmed or suspect outbreaks of COVID-19** should not transfer asymptomatic residents unless first cleared by the LAC DPH contact managing the outbreak.
  - If a resident is cleared for transfer to another facility by LAC DPH, the receiving facility should be notified prior to transfer that the patient is potentially COVID-19 exposed and
  - Upon arrival at the receiving facility, the patient should be maintained in quarantine for 14 days after date of transfer prior to resuming normal activities.

- **SNFs not experiencing confirmed or suspect outbreaks of COVID-19** may transfer asymptomatic residents without prior approval of LAC DPH as long as the resident has not had fever or respiratory symptoms for at least 3 days prior to transfer.
  - Receiving facilities may still elect to place transferred patients into quarantine for 14 days at their discretion.
  - SNFs should not transfer COVID-19-unexposed patients into facilities with active outbreaks of COVID-19 unless first cleared by LAC DPH.