



衛生防護中心 Centre for Health Protection

Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases

Updated Consensus Recommendations on Criteria for Releasing Confirmed COVID-19 Patients from Isolation (July 6, 2020)

In the meeting convened on July 3, 2020, the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (SCEZD) under the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health has reviewed the criteria for releasing confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) patients from isolation and made updated recommendations based on the prevailing scientific understandings on COVID-19. The revised recommendations supersede the previous one made on May 6, 2020.

2. The updated criteria for releasing a confirmed COVID-19 patient from isolation are as follows:

For symptomatic patients

- a) Ten days have passed since the onset of illness; **AND**
- b) Their clinical conditions improve and they are afebrile; **AND**
- c) Either one of the following laboratory criteria:
 - With two clinical specimens of the same type (i.e. respiratory or stool) tested negative for nucleic acid of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) taken at least 24 hours apart. For patients ever with stool specimen(s) tested positive, they should have two negative stool specimens collected 24 hours apart before release from isolation; or
 - Tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibody.



For patients who did not develop any COVID-19 compatible symptoms all along

- a) Five days after the first positive RT-PCR test for SARS-CoV-2;
AND
- b) Either one of the following laboratory criteria:
 - With two clinical specimens of the same type (i.e. respiratory or stool) tested negative for nucleic acid of SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR taken at least 24 hours apart. For patients ever with stool specimen(s) tested positive, they should have two negative stool specimens collected 24 hours apart before release from isolation; or
 - Tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 antibody.

Centre for Health Protection

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