

May 24th, 2021

Updated COVID Isolation Guidance for DHS Sites

DHS is revising its guidance on duration of isolation, to conform with the NYS isolation guidance updated on Mar 3rd, 2021. The new NYS guidance states that:

- Isolation must be at least 10 days, with 24 hours fever-free.
- Isolation will be 10 days for asymptomatic persons or those with mild-moderate symptoms.
- Isolation will be 10-20 days for persons who had severe to critical illness or are severely immunocompromised, as determined by their clinical picture and their medical provider.

Given that DHS does not have detailed medical information on its clients, and that severely ill or severely immunocompromised persons will likely be seen by a medical provider and be referred to isolation by the medical provider, DHS' guidance is as follows:

- A. Clients referred from shelter to DHS isolation hotels are most likely to be asymptomatic when tested positive for COVID-19 or to have mild-moderate symptoms. For clients isolating onsite in their private unit or referred for isolation at a DHS isolation hotel by a shelter provider:
 - At least **10 days** have passed since symptoms attributed to COVID-19 first appeared.
 - For persons who were asymptomatic at the time of their first positive test and who remained asymptomatic throughout their infection, at least **10 days** have passed since the date of collection of the first positive test.
 - For persons who were asymptomatic at the time of their first positive test and subsequently developed symptoms attributed to COVID-19, at least 10 days have passed since the date of symptom onset in addition to the clinical criteria below.
 - In all cases, clients must be fever-free (without the use of anti-fever medications) for at least 24 hours and symptoms, if any, are improving.
- B. Clients who are seen at a hospital and are referred to DHS for isolation from the hospital will have the duration of isolation determined by the hospital based on severity of illness and client/patient' other medical conditions, but isolation will be for no less than 10 days and can be for up to 20 days.
 - The COVID-19 hospital referral form has been revised to include a question on duration of isolation as determined by the referring provider.
 - DHS will use the recommendation of the referring provider to determine duration of isolation, but again it will be for no less than 10 days from test date of date of onset of symptoms.

See the revised NYS guidance here:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/05/doh_covid19_discontinprecautions-20210503.pdf

Or by scanning:

