



Date: August 17, 2020

To: San Joaquin County Medical Community, Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities

From: Maggie Park, MD, Health Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "MP".

IMPORTANT - COVID-19 Health Advisory

Changes to Discontinuation of Isolation:

On July 20, 2020 the CDC changed the guidelines for criteria to release persons from isolation for COVID-19 infection. The major changes are:

- A test-based strategy is no longer recommended to determine when to discontinue isolation, except in certain circumstances.
- Symptom-based criteria were modified from “at least 72 hours” to “at least 24 hours” have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improved symptoms.
- For patients with severe illness, or severely immunocompromised duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset may be warranted.

New Criteria for Release from Isolation:

- **Symptomatic Persons who are confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19:**
 - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared,
and
 - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, **and** improvement in other symptoms.
- **Asymptomatic Persons with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19:**
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test. If they develop symptoms, then the symptom-based criteria should be used.

Change to Reporting by CMR

- For reporting cases of COVID-19 in San Joaquin County CMR reports should be sent by email to SJCDiseaseReporting@sjcphs.org. Phone reports will no longer be taken unless Public Health consultation is needed or for reporting an outbreak.
- It's important that the CMR is filled in as completely as possible. Please gather needed information from the patient when you call to advise them of their test status.
- Include the patient's most recent job if they were working within 14 days of developing COVID-19, even if they are not currently working. This will allow us to investigate worksite exposures and outbreaks.
- Note if the patient is homeless by checking Housing Status: Unstable.

- The CMR form for COVID-19 can be found at:
[http://www.sjcphs.org/Disease/documents/20200813_COVID-19%20CMR%20\(110d\).pdf](http://www.sjcphs.org/Disease/documents/20200813_COVID-19%20CMR%20(110d).pdf)

Influenza and Childhood Vaccines

- Many children are now behind on their childhood vaccines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If they don't get caught up it is predicted that measles, pertussis and other outbreaks will start to occur in large numbers. Pediatricians and Family Medicine doctors, community clinics and medical groups should start to re-call your patients who have missed their vaccines to get them caught up. Health Plans can help by sending messages to both their clients and physicians encouraging them to get these vaccines up to date.
- It's essential that as many people as possible get an influenza vaccine this year so the medical care system is not overrun with cases of both influenza and COVID-19. If you have not yet done so, please order influenza vaccine for your patients and make arrangements for them to get vaccinated.