



Orange County

ATTENTION

STEVEN M. NEUHAUS
County Executive

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Dr. Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhDc
Commissioner of Health

March 31, 2020

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, URGENT CARE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN, LABORATORIES AND AMBULATORY CARE STAFF.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #5
Standing Isolation Orders for Persons Testing Positive for COVID-19

To date, there have been 1,560 cases of COVID-19 reported in Orange County. Please note that this situation continues to evolve rapidly.

Persons who test positive for COVID-19 are subject to a mandatory isolation order issued by the Orange County Department of Health (OCDOH) whether symptomatic or asymptomatic. As of March 31, 2020, OCDOH has now issued Standing Mandatory Isolation Orders. All persons testing positive for COVID-19 must travel directly to their home and/or remain at their home residence and remain isolated until meeting the recovery criteria defined below. An education information sheet on isolation is attached to the standing order. OCDOH will continue to contact positive COVID-19 patients on mandatory isolation and release individuals from isolation. We encourage all healthcare providers to also clear their patients if they call you.

We are asking all health care providers to please provide a copy of the attached Standing Mandatory Isolation Order to each patient with a positive COVID-19 test result via email, where possible. We also encourage all providers to post a copy of the order directly on your website and refer patients there. Orange County Department of Health will provide these orders in multiple languages on our website as well.

RELEASE OF SYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Symptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation once they meet the following conditions:
 - At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; AND
 - Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); AND

- At least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- This approach will prevent most, but may not prevent all, instances of secondary spread. The risk of transmission after recovery is likely substantially less than that during illness.
 - To further reduce the risk, individuals returning from isolation should continue to practice proper hygiene protocols (e.g., hand washing, covering coughs) and avoid prolonged, close contact with vulnerable persons (e.g. compromised immune system, underlying illness, 70 years of age or older).

RELEASE OF ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS ON ISOLATION

- Asymptomatic individuals who were confirmed as having COVID-19 may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:
 - At least 7 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test; AND
 - The individual has had no subsequent illness.

If you have questions, please call Orange County Department of Health at 845-291-2330.