



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2020

To: Institution Wardens
Chief Executive Officers
Chief Support Executives
Institution Chief Medical Executives
Institution Chief Nurse Executives
Institution Chief Physicians & Surgeons
Institution Directors of Nursing Services

From: *Original signed by:* Joseph Bick, MD
Director of Health Care Services

Original signed by: Connie Gipson,
Director, Division of Adult Institutions
CDCR

Subject: TRANSFER OF COVID-19 RESOLVED PATIENTS

The number of patients recovering from COVID-19 continues to rise. This memo provides additional guidance to clarify issues related to the movement and transfer of patients with a history of COVID-19. Patients without a known history of COVID-19 should follow instructions in the [Movement Matrix](#).

Situation 1: Movement/Transfer during Presumed Immunity Period - Asymptomatic

Patients are considered to be protected from reinfection for a period of 12 weeks from the onset of symptoms or date of the first positive test result, if asymptomatic. Asymptomatic resolved patients who have met the criteria for release from isolation and are with the 12-week protection window:

- **Are considered safe to move or transfer without testing and quarantine**
- **Do not** need to be quarantined upon arrival in single cell housing or in cohorts
- **Do** need to wear an N95 mask during transportation to avoid potential confusion during the transfer process.
- **The global face covering policy applies to everyone**

Situation 2: Movement/Transfer Beyond Presumed Immunity Period - Asymptomatic

Patients who have recovered from COVID-19 illness and are beyond 12 weeks from the onset of symptoms, or the date of first positive test for patients who were asymptomatic, are considered

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newly susceptible to reinfections. As such, they are treated the same way they would as if never previously infected. Patients meeting these criteria:

- **Should follow all directives in the [Movement Matrix](#).**

Situation 3: Movement/Transfer During or After the Presumed Immunity Period - Symptomatic

Regardless of the timeframe, patients with undiagnosed symptoms of influenza-like illness, influenza symptoms, or [COVID-19 symptoms](#) are considered infected with COVID-19 until proven otherwise. Patients meeting these criteria:

- Should not be moved or transferred except in the case of emergencies.
- Must be immediately isolated to a single cell
- Should wear a surgical or procedure mask
- [Full COVID-19 PPE](#) is required for individuals around the patient, including N95 respirators
- Please refer to the Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers, section on [Control Strategies for Suspect and Confirmed Cases](#) for more information on management of symptomatic patients.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact CDRCPHCSPublicHealth@cdcr.ca.gov.

Cc: Vince Cullen, Director, Health Care Operations and Corrections Services
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