Viral syndrome and Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

You have a viral syndrome which may include symptoms like muscle aches, fevers, chills, runny nose, cough, sneezing, sore throat, vomiting or diarrhea. One of the potential viruses you may have is SARSCoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus. You may be just as likely to have a different viral infection such as the common cold or flu. Most patients with COVID -19 have mild symptoms and recover on their own. Resting, staying hydrated, and sleeping are typically helpful. As of today’s visit, you are well enough to go home and treat your symptoms with oral fluids, medicines for fevers, cough, pain, etc.

COVID 19 testing is not performed on most people with mild symptoms who are being discharged from the Emergency Department or Clinic.

If COVID 19 testing was performed, the results will not be available until the next day or so. Please DO NOT CONTACT THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OR CLINIC FOR RESULTS OF THIS TEST. We are not able to release results by telephone.

If the result is positive, you will be contacted by a member of the VA team.

Please note that you will NOT be contacted if the result is negative. If you are not contacted by the second day after your visit, you may assume the result was negative.

**DISCONTINUATION OF ISOLATION**

For outpatients, discontinuation of isolation will follow the current CDC guidelines:

**Time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery strategy (non-test-based strategy)**   
**Persons with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

* **IF YOU TEST NEGATIVE:** At least 7 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.
* **IF YOU TEST POSITIVE:** You need to home isolate for 14 days.

**Persons who have COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home may discontinue home isolation under the following conditions:

* Resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
* Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) **and**
* Negative results of an FDA Emergency Use Authorized molecular assay for COVID-19 from at least two consecutive nasopharyngeal swab specimens collected ≥24 hours apart