**FIGURE 12.2: ALGORITHM FOR RELEASE FROM ISOLATION CRITERIA FOR PATIENTS WITH COVID-19**

**Low-risk clinical scenario**

(Asymptomatic throughout illness, normal vitals during illness, has mild-moderate COVID-19 disease, and/or no fever or no fever beyond day 11 [i.e., documented afebrile days 12, 13, and 14])

- **Clinical-based strategy**
  - Clinical criteria only
  - **Remain in isolation until:**
    - At least 3 days after resolution of fever (if applicable) without antipyretic
    - At least 14 days (minimum) from onset of symptoms or initial positive test date in asymptomatic patients
    - Improvement in symptoms

- **Clinical Criteria Met**
  - **COVID-19 evaluation by a medical provider**
  - **Clinically Cleared for Release**
  - **Extends isolation another 7 days**
    - **Consult with an Infectious Disease Specialist**
    - **Reevaluate medically**
  - **Concerns Exist; Not Clinically Cleared for Release**
  - **Monitor patient for new or lingering symptoms.**
  - Consider need for extended convalescence if patient is being released to physically demanding work.
  - Return to strenuous labor such as fire camp or strenuous exercise should be delayed at least 7 days after release from isolation.

**High-risk clinical scenario**

(Patients returning from a hospitalization due to COVID-19, severe COVID-19 without hospitalization, severely immunocompromised, patients still symptomatic after 14 days)

- **Clinical-based strategy**
  - Clinical criteria only
  - **Remain in isolation until:**
    - At least 3 days after resolution of fever (if applicable) without antipyretic
    - At least 21 days (minimum) from onset of symptoms or initial positive test date in asymptomatic patients
    - Improvement in symptoms

- **Clinical Criteria Met**
  - **COVID-19 evaluation by a medical provider**
  - **Clinically Cleared for Release**
  - **Concerns Exist; Not Clinically Cleared for Release**
  - **Monitor patient for new or lingering symptoms.**
  - Consider need for extended convalescence if patient is being released to physically demanding work.
  - Return to strenuous labor such as fire camp or strenuous exercise should be delayed at least 7 days after release from isolation.

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**NIH Definition of severe and critical illness:**

- **Severe Illness:**
  - Individuals who have respiratory frequency >30 breaths per minute, SpO2 <94% on room air at sea level, a ratio of arterial partial pressure of oxygen to fraction of inspired oxygen (PaO2/FiO2) <300, or lung infiltrates >50%

- **Critical Illness:**
  - Individuals who have respiratory failure, septic shock, and/or multiple organ dysfunction

**Test-based strategy**

- **No fever without antipyretics, symptoms improved, and negative results of 2 consecutive respiratory specimens >24 hrs. apart.**
  - For those without symptoms, solely 2 negative tests >24 hrs. apart

**Excerpted from the Control Strategy for Suspected and Confirmed Cases section of the CCHCS Interim Guidance for Health Care and Public Health Providers: [https://cchcs.ca.gov/covid-19-interim-guidance/](https://cchcs.ca.gov/covid-19-interim-guidance/)

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