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Dr Tony Holohan  
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March 12th, 2020

Dear Tony

Many thanks for your letter dated March 10th, regarding the criteria on timelines for discharge of patients, with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, from a period of self-isolation.

This issue was discussed by the EAG at its meeting yesterday (March 11th). The Group recommended that patients with a confirmed diagnosis of SARS-CoV-2 infection should self-isolate for a period of 14 days: this time starts at either the onset of symptoms, or at the date of diagnosis (whichever can be ascertained more definitively); in addition, the individual should be afebrile (temperature <38 degrees) for at least 5 days prior to the end of the period of self-isolation.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to revert to the Group.

Kind regards

**Cillian De Gascun**  
MD, FRCPI, FRCPath (Virology), FFPATH RCPI  
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