

Updated 09/28/20

Dear members of the Austen Riggs Center Community:

I am writing to let you know that after reviewing available evidence and consulting with outside experts, we are modifying our COVID testing and quarantine protocol. Broadly speaking, the result is shorter quarantine periods for newly admitted patients and those who have had contact with suspected COVID-19 cases.

Specifically, our new protocol means:

- Newly admitted patients from anywhere in the country enter quarantine and undergo a single COVID-19 test, at least 72 hours after admission. They can leave quarantine after the test returns negative for the virus that causes COVID-19 but not sooner than five days after admission.
- If contact was made with a person being tested for COVID-19, and that person tests negative, quarantine may be discontinued.
- People in quarantine because of potential geographic exposure (including current patients in quarantine off campus, current staff returning from travel, and newly hired staff) undergo one test at least 72 hours after entering MA and can leave quarantine once the test returns negative for the virus that causes COVID-19 but not sooner than five days after entering MA.
- All patients and staff are routinely screened for exposure to COVID-19. Depending on information gathered from screening and assessments, a medical professional may determine that 14-day quarantine is needed if there is high risk of recent exposure.

To learn more, please visit our [Admissions with Quarantine webpage](#). Should you have any questions not covered there, please feel free to contact the Center via the instructions below.

As always, my thanks for your support and trust as we move forward in these challenging times.

Be well,

Eric M. Plakun, MD
Medical Director/CEO