Summary of Key Findings

1. Concentrations of SARS-CoV-2 RNA in upper respiratory specimens decline after onset of symptoms.
2. The likelihood of recovering replication-competent virus also declines after onset of symptoms. For patients with mild to moderate COVID-19, replication-competent virus has not been recovered after 10 days following symptom onset. (1,8,31,36,42,61,66) Recovery of replication-competent virus between 10 and 20 days after symptom onset has been reported in some adults with severe COVID-19; some of these cases were immunocompromised. (56) However, in this series of patients, it was estimated that 88% and 95% of their specimens no longer yielded replication-competent virus after 10 and 15 days, respectively, following symptom onset.
3. In a large contact tracing study, no contacts at high risk of exposure developed infection if their exposure to a case patient started 6 days or more after the case patient's infection onset. (12)
4. Recovered patients can continue to have SARS-CoV-2 RNA detected in their upper respiratory specimens for up to 12 weeks after symptom onset. Efforts to isolate replication-competent virus from these patients is usually not successful.
5. Reinfection can happen due to COVID variants……To date, reports of reinfection have been infrequent.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/duration-isolation.html