Persistent Positive/Re-infection Diagram

**Effective Date:** 8/4/2020; Rev. 9/12/2020; Rev. 10/7/2020; Rev. 11/13/2020; Rev 12/10/2020; Rev. 12/15/2020

**Intended Audience:** Healthcare providers

**Purpose:** To advise individuals who tested positive for COVID-19, completed isolation but have persistent or recurrent positive tests

**Reference:** Reinfection has been documented in a very small number of cases. When a person can be reinfected remains unknown and is a subject of investigation. Until we have more information, the determination of whether a person with a positive test in these situations is contagious to others should be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Diagram:*

- **Recovered Person Tests Positive Incidentally (Not Symptomatic):**
  - ≤3 months or >3 months?
    - ≤3 months
      - Consider it to be a persistent positive. Do not repeat isolation.
    - >3 months
      - Consider it to be a new infection.
      - Repeat isolation; obtain PCR; and send isolates to PHL**.

- **Recovered Person with Recurrent Symptoms:**
  - ≤3 months or >3 months?
    - ≤3 months
      - Consider alternate diagnosis*.
    - >3 months
      - Suspect new infection.
      - Retest and repeat isolation while awaiting results.

- **Recovered Person Now Identified as Contact:**
  - ≤3 months or >3 months?
    - ≤3 months
      - Do not retest & no need to quarantine.
    - >3 months
      - Retest & quarantine for 10 days.

*Consider ID consult to review medical history, review cycle threshold values of repeat PCR test, and evaluate need for additional tests, such as viral culture, serology, or genotyping. Send specimen to PHL** if between 45-90 days and no obvious alternate etiology and no known close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

**For specimens sent to PHL, paired specimens (one from each episode) should be available and with a CT cutoff < 33 (or CT unavailable).