

## Bronx RHIO Launches a COVID-19 Recovery Flag

The Bronx RHIO has developed a COVID-19 recovery flag for the Virtual Health Record (VHR) portal and reports. This recovery designation distinguishes patients believed to have recovered from COVID-19 from those with active cases. This flag builds off the work the Bronx RHIO has done to provide a COVID-19 diagnosis flag since the early weeks of the pandemic.

In a recent survey of Bronx RHIO end users, nearly two-thirds of respondents requested the implementation of a COVID-19 recovery flag to identify patients who are presumed to have recovered from the acute phase of COVID-19 infection. This information will clarify which acute COVID-19 patients are impacting the healthcare system or have the potential to.

This recovery flag will also facilitate the identification and clinical management of previously infected patients diagnosed and accessing services at other facilities, with post-acute COVID-19 syndrome and other COVID-19 sequela. While recovered patients might develop some protective immunity, the duration and extent of immunity are unknown. Thus, this flag will inform the evaluation and management of recovered patients presenting with new symptoms consistent with COVID-19 within 3 months of the previous infection.

The recovery flag designation is determined by exclusion from an active COVID-19 patient data set. This active COVID-19 patient data set is a subset of the pool of patients ever identified as having COVID-19 through a laboratory test (excluding antibody tests). The Bronx RHIO receives a daily feed of COVID-19 test results from all testing sites across NYS along with real-time testing data from Bronx RHIO members.

Determining COVID recovery is currently an inexact science. Through exploratory data analysis, the Bronx RHIO found that many patients were not undergoing enough COVID-19 testing to be able to reliably determine recovery through multiple negative tests.

To approximate recovery, the Bronx RHIO employs exclusion logic to the active patient data set based on [guidance from the World Health Organization](#). For patients that were not hospitalized, the estimated recovery date is 2 weeks after the earliest positive COVID test or identification date. For those who were hospitalized within 2 weeks before or 30 days after a COVID positive identification, the estimated recovery date is set as 6 weeks after the earliest COVID positive test or identification date. Patients who have yet to reach the Estimated Recovery date and have not passed away remain in the active patient data set. This data set is regularly reviewed by Bronx RHIO staff due to the possibility for recovered patients to be re-infected and re-enter the active data set.

The COVID-19 recovery flag is currently available in Bronx RHIO reports and will be available by January 2021 in the Bronx RHIO Virtual Health Record (VHR).