

**SMC PROTOCOL FOR MANAGING SUSPECTED COVID-19 PATIENTS**

**WHAT TO DO IF A PATIENT PRESENTS WITH A FEVER AND LOWER RESPITARTORY SYMPTOMS**

**Call into a clinic or physician’s office:**

* + 1. 1- Ask if they have traveled to a high-risk area or have had contact with someone who was exposed to laboratory confirmed COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset. a. **Yes,** they have traveled to high-risk area or have contact with someone with / exposed to a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient, determine if they are clinically stable and can quarantine at home (will need provider to take information). i. If they can quarantine at home, obtain the information and call DPH. Have the patient quarantine at home until DPH makes their recommendation.
    2. ii. If they are unstable and cannot quarantine at home: 1. Direct them to their closest Emergency Department.
    3. 2. Attempt to get an estimated time of arrival and notify the ED in advance of their arrival so they can prepare.
    4. 3. Instruct the patient to call the ED upon arrival (give them the ED number).
    5. 4. Instruct them to immediately convey to the staff that they are a possible COVID-19 patient upon arrival so the ED can provide a surgical mask upon arrival.

b. **No**, they have NOT traveled to a high-risk area or have contact with someone with/exposed to a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient, book them for an appointment. i. The patient should wear a surgical mask the entire time until they return to their car.

* + 1. ii. The room should be cleaned and all surfaces wiped down with disinfectant.

**Present in the clinic:**

1. Immediately place a surgical mask on the patient, while staff member should promptly wear an N95 mask with an eye shield/goggles.

2. Escort the patient to an isolation room or private room with door closed.

3. Ask if they have traveled to a high-risk area or have had contact with someone who was exposed to a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient.

4. Have the physician determine the best course of action based on the evaluation.

5. **If patient is unlikely to need hospitalization, DO NOT** send them to an ED or Urgent Care facility. Keep them isolated in place. If the patient requires hospitalization, stabilize and send to the ED with notification for PUI for COVID-19.

6. Base initial workup and response per the table below.

7. If you believe they may be infected, notify the DPH immediately at 866-PUB-HLTH. They will connect you with a state epidemiologist to facilitate further testing and evaluation.

8. Also contact your site’s infection prevention team

**If a patient presents with a fever and lower respiratory symptoms WITHOUT travel to a high-risk area or possible exposure:**

1. Manage the case as a viral illness.

2. Immediately place a surgical mask on the patient, while staff member should promptly wear an N95 mask

3. Escort the patient to an isolation room or private room with door closed.

4. Confirm they have not traveled to a high-risk area or have had contact with someone who was exposed to a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 patient. Refer to the table below for guidance on testing.

5. If the patient is not severely ill requiring hospitalization, the patient is NOT a Patient Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19. Testing and treatment are routine as a viral illness or Influenza Like Illness.

6. If the patient is too sick to return home, call 911 and have them transported to the closest hospital. They would be treated as a PUI. a. Inform the hospital prior to their arrival so they can prepare.

**What do I recommend for people who are asymptomatic who have traveled to high-risk areas or had possible COVID-19 exposure?**

Guidelines on this topic are evolving. For low-risk exposure and asymptomatic, the recommendation is to “self-monitor.” You can get more information at the CDC site.

**If a patient presents with fever and lower respiratory symptoms with different exposure, and ability to quarantine**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Known Exposure (travel or direct contact within 14 days of symptom onset) | Medically Stable to self-quarantine? | Preliminary work-up prior to calling DPH | Call DPH\* | Other comments |
| Yes | Yes, hospitalization not necessary. | No | Yes, immediately. | May do Flu test while awaiting DPH call back. |
| No | Yes, hospitalization not necessary. | Yes, but not a patient under investigation. Testing and Treatment for viral illness or Influenza Like Illness (ILI). | Not a Patient under investigation for COVID-19. Test and treat like viral illness or Influenza Like Illness. | May be updated in the future if community spread becomes an issue. |
| No | No, possible need for hospitalization. | Send to ED for appropriate workup. Place mask on patient | ED to contact DPH for possible testing if no alternative diagnosis identified. | Notify ED of patient arrival. Influenza and Multiplex test negative needed prior to call to DPH. |
| Yes | No, possible need for hospitalization. | Send to ED for appropriate workup. Place mask on patient | Contact DPH for possible testing. | Notify ED of patient arrival. |