COVID-19 Clinical Decision Guidance for Outpatient Settings

These recommendations are developed to assist clinical decision for healthcare providers interacting with patients who have concerns about COVID-19 illness and should accompany good clinical judgment. Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms, and be aware that other respiratory infections (e.g., influenza, RSV, etc.) exhibit signs and symptoms similar to COVID-19. Guidelines are rapidly evolving and will be updated accordingly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYMPTOMS? (New or worsening fever, cough, shortness of breath in the past 14 days)</th>
<th>EXPOSURE/RISK FACTOR?</th>
<th>COUNSELING RECOMMENDATIONS (Isolation precautions, monitoring, self-care, etc.)</th>
<th>SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) TESTING**?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Asymptomatic | A, B, C, D | • Avoid public places and stay home or at other designated space, away from other people, for 14 days  
• Monitor symptoms during the 14 days after the last day of close contact with the sick person with COVID-19 or from the time of last exposure  
• Wear a facemask when around other people  
• Follow hygiene and sanitation guidance  
• Contact health care provider if symptoms develop | No |
| Symptomatic (Mild or Moderate) | None | • Avoid public places and stay home or at other designated space, away from other people, until 3 days after the fever ends and symptoms improve  
• Wear a facemask when around other people  
• Follow hygiene and sanitation guidance  
• Contact health care provider if symptoms worsen | Clinical Judgment  
AND  
Consider Public Health Priority Groups for COVID-19 Testing ** |
| Not Requiring Hospitalization | A, B, C, D | • Avoid public places and stay home or at other designated space, away from other people, for 7 days OR until 3 days after the fever ends and symptoms improve, whichever is longer  
• Wear a facemask when around other people  
• Follow hygiene and sanitation guidance  
• Contact health care provider if symptoms worsen  
• People at higher risk*** should contact their healthcare provider early even for mild illness | |
| Symptomatic (Severe) | None or Any | • Seek emergency care immediately  
• Notify the dispatch personnel that the patient has or may have COVID-19 | Yes |

**CLOSE CONTACT with person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 includes:**
- Living in the same household as a sick person with COVID-19
- Caring for a sick person with COVID-19
- Being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes
- Being in direct contact with secretions from a sick person with COVID-19 (e.g., being coughed on, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.)

**PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY GROUPS FOR COVID-19 TESTING**

The following patients with COVID-19 symptoms should be tested for COVID-19:
- Healthcare workers
- Public safety workers (e.g., law enforcement, fire fighter, EMS)
- Patients who live or work in an institutional or congregate setting (e.g., corrections, long term care facility, homeless/shelters)
- Patients working in critical infrastructure occupations (e.g., grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, etc.)

***People at higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19:***
(Should contact their healthcare provider early if their symptoms worsen)
- Over 60 years of age
- With underlying medical conditions
- Who are pregnant