Clinician Screening Tool for Identifying Persons Under Investigation for Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
March 18, 2020

Only consider persons with travel to an affected geographic area¹ or close contact² with a laboratory-confirmed³,⁴ COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset or persons with severe respiratory illness⁵ without an alternative diagnosis.

1. Assessment should be initiated before entering healthcare facility (for ALL patients).
2. If patient meets any of the below screening criteria, instruct patient to wear a surgical mask and move to a designated isolation area/private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne isolation room, if available.
3. Initiate contact and airborne precautions using Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) (e.g., masks, goggles, or face shields, etc.) for ALL healthcare and ancillary staff entering the room.
4. Screen patient for influenza using the Rapid Flu test, if flu test is negative, screen for COVID-19. If COVID-19 tests are not available and patient is not short of breath, provide patient education for home isolation and supportive care. Visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/caring-for-yourself-at-home.html. If COVID-19 tests are not available and patient is experiencing shortness of breath, refer to local Emergency Department.

A. Person traveled to or from an affected geographic area¹ with widespread or sustained community transmission.
   Does the person have fever⁴ and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)?

   YES
   NO

   STOP: No COVID-19 testing needed. Continue to treat patient normally.

B. Person had close contact² with a laboratory-confirmed³,⁴ COVID-19 patient.
   Does the person have fever⁴ or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath)?

   YES
   NO

C. Person with severe acute lower respiratory illness⁴ and fever requiring hospitalization.
   Does the person have an alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)?

   YES
   NO

This patient meets the criteria for a patient under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19: Immediately notify Infection/quality control and administrative personnel at your health facility and your county or state health department. Visit https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus.

¹Affected areas are defined as geographic regions where sustained community transmission has been identified. Countries with CDC Level 2 or 3 Travel Health Notices include: China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, and Japan (as of February 28, 2020). A current list of affected areas can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/.

²Close contacts are defined as: (1) being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; (2) close contact without a face mask or PPE; (3) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on). If such contact occurs while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, N95 respirator, eye protection), criteria for PUI consideration are met. Data to inform the definition of close contact are limited. Considerations when assessing close contact include the duration of exposure (e.g., longer exposure is likely to increase exposure risk) and the clinical symptoms of the person with COVID-19 (e.g., coughing likely increases exposure risk as does exposure to a severely ill patient). Special consideration should be given to healthcare personnel exposed in healthcare settings.

³Documentation of laboratory-confirmation of COVID-19 may not be possible for travelers or persons caring for patients in other countries.

⁴For healthcare personnel, testing may be considered if there has been exposure to a person with suspected COVID-19 without laboratory confirmation.

⁵Category includes single or clusters of patients with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) of unknown etiology which COVID-19 is being considered.

⁶Fever may be subjective or confirmed.


*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*