

Effective: 03/02/2020

Expiration: N/A

Replaces Medical Directive #: 2002001

Subject: COVID-19 – March Update

Due to further spread of COVID-19 (formerly 2019-nCoV), the CDC has updated their screening criteria. Please see below for updated criteria (noted in **bold**) for use in the MAEMSA System.

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If you are evaluating a patient with symptoms of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, fever), **first maintain at least 6-feet of separation, if possible. Then**, place the patient in a surgical mask, followed by the “Identify, Isolate, Inform” Process:

Identify

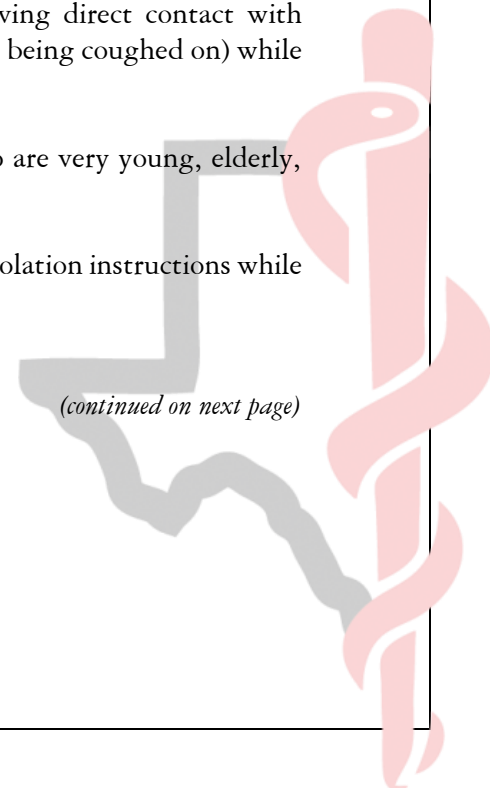
Patients with both Clinical Features and Epidemiologic Risk:

- Fever AND/OR Symptoms of lower respiratory illness, e.g., cough, shortness of breath; AND
- In the last 14-days before symptoms onset, have:
 - History of travel from **mainland China, or other countries on the current CDC list of “International Areas with Sustained (Ongoing) Transmission”, (found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>)**
 - OR, Close contact with a confirmed, or person who is under investigation for, COVID-19 while that person was ill
 - Close contact is defined as:
 - being within approximately 6-feet, or within the room or care area for a prolonged time, of a COVID-19 patient while not wearing appropriate PPE; caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 patient; having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended PPE

Remember that fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications.

For patients identified through the 911 call-taking process, begin with below Isolation instructions while confirming screening questions

(continued on next page)



Isolate

- Ensure patient continues to wear surgical mask
- Don airborne precaution PPE: gloves, fluid-resistant gown, N-95 face mask, and eye protection

Inform

- Follow Agency institutional policy on notification for HCID, including Agency chain-of-command
- Notify destination receiving facility of a patient requiring negative pressure room and airborne precautions
- For patients refusing treatment or transport, contact OLPG
- Plan for decontamination of personnel, equipment, and ambulance

Further background information is available at the CDC's Health Advisory Network:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly.



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