### Initial Management of Patients Who May Have 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection

**1. IDENTIFY**

**Does the patient have fever\(^1\), cough or shortness of breath?**

- **YES**
  - Place face mask on patient

- **NO**
  - Within 14 days of symptom onset, did patient travel from an affected geographic area\(^2\) or have close contact\(^3\) with a COVID-19 patient?
    - **YES**
      - Place masked patient in airborne infection isolation room (AIIR); if unavailable, use private room.
    - **NO**
      - Routine triage and management

**2. ISOLATE**

1. Place masked patient in airborne infection isolation room (AIIR); if unavailable, use private room.
2. All personnel entering room must use the following personal protective equipment:
   -- Gloves, gown, N95 respirator, goggles or face shield

**3. INFORM**

- **Yes**
  - Call the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Provider Access Line (PAL) at 866-692-3641 to discuss and determine if patient should be tested for COVID-19 infection.
  - DOHMH will advise on next steps, including specimen collection and patient disposition.

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**Evaluate for COVID-19 and Other Respiratory infections and Determine if Patient Meets CDC’s PUI\(^4\) Definition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Features</th>
<th>Epidemiologic Risk (Within 14 Days of Symptom Onset)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fever(^4) or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (LRI) (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) AND Any person, including health care workers(^5), who had close contact(^1) with a laboratory-confirmed(^6) COVID-19 patient</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Fever(^4) and LRI signs/symptoms requiring hospitalization AND A history of travel from affected geographic areas(^2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Fever(^4) and severe LRI (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza)(^7) AND No source of exposure has been identified</td>
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*February 28, 2020*
FOOTNOTES

1. Fever may be subjective or confirmed

2. Affected areas are defined as geographic areas where sustained community transmission has been identified. Relevant affected areas will be defined as a country with at least a CDC Level 2 Travel Health Notice. See all COVID-19 Travel Health Notices.

3. Close contact:
   a) Being within ~6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (i.e., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case
   OR
   b) Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

4. CDC definition for a Person Under Investigation for COVID-19 infection

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

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

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