UCSF Health COVID-19 Algorithm for On-site Respiratory Evaluation in Adult Respiratory Screening Clinics

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Guidelines cannot replace personalized evaluation and management decisions based on individual patient factors

Environmental risks:
- High-risk travel or known COVID exposure within 14 days
- Health care workers
- Institutional home setting (nursing home, dormitory, shelter, prison, etc)
- Outpatient dialysis center patient
- Living with immunocompromised person

Patient-related risks:
- Age > 60
- Immunocompromised (oncology, transplant, immunosuppressive meds, HIV, other known immunodeficiency)
- Pregnancy
- Chronic lung disease
- Cirrhosis
- Cardiovascular disease
- End stage renal disease
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Smoking/vaping

Target Audience: Respiratory Screening Clinics (RSC)

Respiratory complaints plus any of the following: Has any of the following new acute symptoms:
1. Fever (objective or subjective)?
2. Unexplained muscle aches
3. Respiratory symptoms (dyspnea or cough)
4. URI symptoms (headache, rhinorrhea, sore throat)
5. GI symptoms (diarrhea, nausea, vomiting)
6. ENT symptoms (loss of taste or smell)
7. Eye symptoms (conjunctivitis)
8. Age > 60: Altered mentation (confused, dizzy, falls)

Yes

No

Standard work flow

If not already masked, give patient surgical mask

Exclusion Criteria
- Known or strongly suspected alternative diagnosis (COPD, asthma, underlying CHF, etc)

Evaluate patient and consider:
1. COVID-19 RNA qualitative
2. Rapid flu/RV PCR
3. CBC w/diff, CMP, CRP, CXR

**Viral tests can be done using the same swab. Order both tests, and submit one sample to the lab**

See Yellow Box - prioritize COVID tests for high risk due to environment exposures or patient-related risks

Stable for clinic assessment

Unstable for clinic assessment

Stable and suitable for discharge home

Requires Admission

Provide Ambulatory Pulse Ox for any of the following:
- Active cancer
- Immunocompromised
- Chronic lung disease
- PO2 < 95%
- Pulse > 90
- Chest x-ray positive

Can consider the following:
- Lymphopenia or leukopenia
- Age > 60
- Cardiovascular disease
- Hypertension
- Active smoker

Patient homeless or in shelter: Contact DPH for guidance

Patient in nursing home, LTC, SNF: contact the facility

Patient hemodialysis: contact the dialysis clinic

Patient lives in dormitory: ask for room isolation pending test result

Discharge

1. Provide COVID-19 discharge instructions via smartphones:
2. COVID-19 positive: Video Visit (ideal) or phone call to ensure patient knows result.
3. COVID-19 negative: MyChart message or phone call to patient. Patient instructed to call their PCP if they need further guidance.

**Steps 2 & 3 above likely to change early next week**

At the time of admission please notify transfer center and ED about concern for COVID-19

1. Notify EMS and ED of intention to transport and concern for COVID-19
2. Patient wears surgical mask
3. PPE for transporters: gloves and gowns and surgical mask with eye protection.