

Clinical Approach to Guide Evaluation of ED Patients with Symptoms of COVID-19

For ED/Hospital Provider (3/13/20)

Patient presents with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection (fever and cough)

Mask patient immediately and put in separate room

Perform diagnostic tests as indicated (blood work, CXR, rapid flu test, etc.)

Patient requires hospitalization?

NO

YES

- Collect NP swab for COVID-19; see box below.
- Instruct patient to isolate at home until test results return

- Collect NP swab for COVID-19; see box below

Notify OCHCA about suspect case pending results only if patient is a resident or employee of a senior living facility (SNF/LTCF or assisted living)

Able to send specimens to LabCorp or Quest?

NO

YES

Call OCHCA to discuss case; OCHCA will test if:

1. Patient is hospitalized with respiratory illness
2. Patient has cough OR fever and close contact² with a confirmed case, OR
3. Patient has cough and fever and
 - Is a healthcare worker, OR
 - Is a resident of a skilled nursing facility, OR
 - Has returned from a country at risk in last 14 days³

If approved for testing at OCHCA, collect NP swab and refrigerate specimen and PHL courier will pick up next business day (freeze specimen if collected Friday or Saturday)

- Collect NP swab and send to commercial lab
- For other specimen types, check with commercial lab to assure correct specimens are submitted



1. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of a COVID-19 case for over 2 minutes
2. A list of countries at risk can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>