

Clinical Approach to Guide Evaluation of Outpatients with Symptoms of COVID-19

For community providers (3/13/20)

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

Mask patient immediately (if present in office); assess for severity of illness

Patient needs to be evaluated at ED?

YES

See separate flow diagram for ED/Hospital

NO

Able to collect specimens and send to commercial lab?

YES

NO

Collect NP swab and send swab to commercial lab

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)

Instruct patient to isolate at home until test results return

Call OCHCA to discuss case; OCHCA will test if:

1. Patient has cough OR fever and close contact¹ with a confirmed case, OR
2. 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 days²

If approved for testing:

- Able to collect specimens: collect NP swab and refrigerate specimen and PHL courier will pick up next business day (freeze specimen if collected Friday or Saturday)
- Not able to collect specimens: testing will be scheduled at Public Health

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 affected countries can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Call the OCHCA Communicable Disease Control Division at 714-834-8180 to report a confirmed case or to arrange testing. DO NOT instruct patients to call these numbers.

