

# 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 contact<sup>2</sup> 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 days<sup>3</sup>

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

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)



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>