

# Triage of Patient Suspected of Having Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

\*Fever may not be present in some patients (i.e. very young, elderly, immunocompromised, patients on fever lowering medication). Clinical judgment should be exercised in this situation.

Patient presents with:

- Fever\* AND/Or
- Symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing, pneumonia)

## \*\*2019-nCoV Case definition:

- Fever\* and lower respiratory symptoms **AND**
- Travel history to mainland China in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, **OR** had contact with a suspected or confirmed nCoV patient within the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms

Does the patient fit the case definition for a 2019-nCoV\*\*

No

Yes

Discontinue workup for nCoV and proceed with routine treatment protocols

- Provide the patient a surgical mask to cover nose and mouth
- Transfer patient to a negative pressure room and place the patient on airborne and contact isolation with eye protection (note: if a negative pressure room is not available, place the patient in a private room and ask the patient to continue wearing the surgical mask)
- Complete the medical assessment

**Important:** Patients identified in OP or ambulatory setting should be provided surgical masks and placed in a private room then transferred to the closest HM ED

**Harris County Health Department**  
Tel: (713) 439-6000  
After hours: (713) 755-5000

**Fort Bend County Health Department**  
Tel: (281) 342-6414  
After hours: (281) 434-6494

**Montgomery County Health Department:**  
Tel: (936) 523-5026  
After hours: (888) 825-9754

- Notify your local infection prevention and control department
- Notify the epidemiology center at the local health department
- The epidemiology center will then contact the state health department for guidance
- If the state health department deems the patient to be a person under investigation (PUI), it will complete the investigation and then contact the CDC for guidance related to testing and specimen collection

- Testing for 2019-nCoV is performed by the CDC. The HM hospital lab will forward the sample to the Texas Department of State Health Service for transport to the CDC.
- Public health management and follow up once the patient is discharged will be coordinated by the local health department
- Contact tracing and care will be managed by the local health department

# Management of Patients Suspected of Having Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

