NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19 Triage and Assessment Guidance

Contact TDH at 615-741-7247 (24 hours/day) and ask to speak to someone about coronavirus.

REMINDER:
All patients with fever or respiratory symptoms should receive a mask upon entry to any healthcare facility.

1. ASSESS EXPOSURE HISTORY:

In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, did the patient:

- Have close contact* with a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient?
- Travel to Hubei Province, China?
- Travel to mainland China? (Excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)
- Travel to other area with ongoing community transmission of COVID-19?

If NO to all four, the patient does not need to be tested for 2019-nCoV.

*Close Contact:
- Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area, of a novel coronavirus case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case.
  OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

2. PERFORM CLINICAL ASSESSMENT:

- Fever?
- Cough?
- Difficulty breathing?
- Require hospitalization?

3. NEXT STEPS:

If patient has relevant exposure history and clinically compatible symptoms, then:

- Place a surgical mask on the patient
- Conduct care in a private room (ideally an airborne infection isolation room) with the door closed
- Use standard precautions, contact precautions, airborne precautions, and eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield)
- Contact TDH for next steps 615-741-7247

TDH staff will consult with providers to determine if patients meet criteria for COVID-19 testing.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. Up-to-date information is available online:

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