# 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)

Yes

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

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

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

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

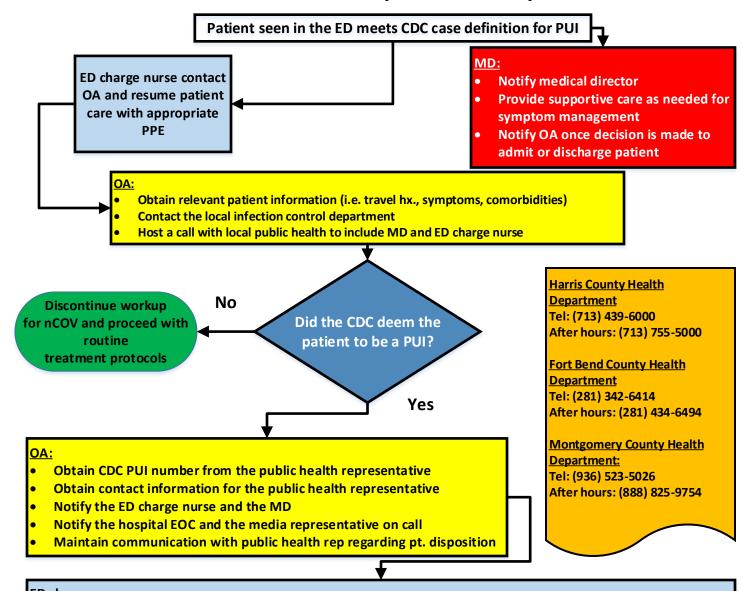
Fort Bend County Health
Department
Tel: (281) 342-6414
After hours: (281) 434-6494

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)



### ED charge nurse:

- Notify nurse caring for the patient and help obtain the proper samples for testing
- Complete forms required for CDC testing
- Gather a list of hospital employees who have come in contact with the patient before and after initiation of isolation practices
- Send samples on ice to the local hospital lab. If patient is seen at HMH, send samples directly to the HMH
  referral lab

Important: samples have to be hand carried to the lab. Do not use pneumatic tube system

Notify the OA when samples have been sent

#### Referral lab tech in charge

- Ensure samples are packaged for shipping according to regulatory requirements and instructions received from the state health department
- Notify CDC once samples are packaged and ready for shipping (refer to health department instructions)
- Notify OA once the samples have been picked up by the CDC designated courier service
- Maintain documentation of shipping information

