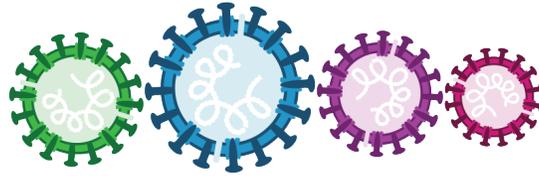


Guidance for Health Care Teams in Ambulatory Settings

Patients with possible novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19



Warren County
Health District



Area hospitals are equipped and ready to receive suspected COVID-19 patients with appropriate negative pressure isolation rooms and personal protective equipment.

Area emergency medical services also are equipped to accept and transfer patients with suspected COVID-19 infection.



In contrast, ambulatory healthcare sites generally are not equipped to provide recommended isolation.

SYMPTOMS



Public Health **DOES NOT RECOMMEND** that people with possible symptomatic COVID-19 infection go directly to an ambulatory care site.

Public Health encourages people to **call their provider office** for directions on how to proceed.



If someone calls your office with suspected COVID-19 infection, evaluate the patient to determine if:

- Reported or observed fever, cough, or difficulty breathing are present...**AND**
- There is a travel history to China with a return to the USA within the past 14 days.

If the clinical judgment is that the patient's presentation is consistent with COVID-19 infection:

- 1** Inform Public Health (suspected COVID-19 is a category A reportable disease). Public Health will offer guidance on next steps and assist as able. Call (513) 695-2097
- 2** Inform emergency medical transportation services of the situation in order that they can arrange a secure pick-up at the patient's home.
- 3** Alert the receiving hospital in order that they may make secure arrangements to receive the patient and communicate with emergency medical transportation.



Patients may appear at an ambulatory care site unannounced / without warning.

If the patient appears symptomatic, place a surgical mask on the patient, and place the patient in a room by herself or himself. Properly fitted N-95 masks are recommended for healthcare personnel in contact with the patient. When N-95 masks are unavailable, use surgical masks.



Evaluate the patient to determine if:

- Fever, cough, or difficulty breathing are present...**AND**
- There is a travel history to China with a return to the USA within the past 14 days.

If the clinical judgment is that the patient's presentation is consistent with COVID-19 infection:

- 1** Inform Public Health (suspected COVID-19 is a category A reportable disease). PH will offer guidance on next steps and assist as able. Call (513) 695-2097
- 2** Inform emergency medical transportation services of the situation in order that they can arrange a secure pick-up at your site. While simply passing by a person COVID-19 infection carries minimal risk of transmission, consider having emergency medical transport come through back doors and hallways. If this is not possible, consider emptying your waiting room if that is the only route available.
- 3** Alert the receiving hospital in order that they may make secure arrangements to receive the patient and communicate with emergency medical transportation.