

COVID-19 screening and evaluation in ambulatory setting

Patient has no respiratory illness symptoms

- Patient should not be tested.
- If potentially exposed, patient should self-quarantine for 14 days from exposure and contact physician if symptoms develop.

Patient has respiratory illness symptoms (acute onset of fever, cough and/or shortness of breath) and meets one of these criteria:

- Had close contact with a suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset.
- Has a history of any travel (within or outside PA) within 14 days of their symptom onset.
- Is an older adult (age >60 years) or has a chronic medical condition and/or an immunocompromised state putting them at higher risk for poor outcomes (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, receiving immunosuppressive medications, chronic lung disease, chronic kidney disease).
- Is a healthcare worker

Immediately:

- Ensure patient's nose and mouth are covered by a surgical mask.
- Place patient in private room with closed door.
- Wear a surgical mask when in the room.

Once in private room:

- Obtain a detailed history and physical exam to look for other etiologies for presenting symptoms and time line.
- Consider CXR, CBC with differential to assist with determinations.
- Obtain NP swab for respiratory pathogen PCR (optional) and COVID-19 testing.
- Refer to Collecting of samples for COVID-2019 provided by Geisinger Medical Laboratories.
- [Complete PUI form \(cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/pui-form.pdf)

Further care and management of patient

If patient is too ill for outpatient follow-up care: Transport patient to ED

- Notify ED or hospital before transport that you suspect the patient may have COVID-19. This will ensure proper isolation precautions are in place when patient arrives.

If patient can be managed as an outpatient:

- Discharge per PA DOH (home quarantine).
 - Provide information from CDC home care guidance.
 - Provide guidance for follow-up from PA DOH.
- Supportive care, including hydration and antipyretics as indicated.
- Advise patient to call if symptoms worsen.

When test results return

If positive for COVID-19:

- **If patient is inpatient when results return:**
 - Call hospital switchboard and ask to speak with Infection Prevention and Control on-call.
 - Report results of testing.
- **If patient is outpatient when results return:**
 - Call PA DOH at 877-724-3258 and report results.
 - Follow guidance from PADOH.
 - Inform the patient of the results.

If negative for COVID-19

- **If patient is inpatient when results return:**
 - Call hospital switchboard and ask to speak with Infection Prevention and Control on-call.
 - Report results of testing.
- **If patient is outpatient when results return:**
 - Inform the patient of the results and continue supportive care.