
Destination and Transport for Patients at Risk for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Purpose: To direct patient transport and destination for patients that are triaged medium or high-risk for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

- I. Applicable patients – triaged by Center for Disease Control (CDC) quarantine station, through the local health department, or utilizing CDC triage criteria
 - a. High-Risk –
 - i. Have traveled from locations with current CDC travel restrictions related to COVID-19 within 14 days (current restrictions can be found at www.cdc.gov/travel)
 - ii. Those who share the same household as, are an intimate partner of, or provided care to symptomatic patients with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (or clinically diagnosed outside of the United States who did not have laboratory testing).
 - b. Medium-Risk –
 - i. Had close contact with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection, and not having any exposures that meet a high-risk definition.
 1. The same risk assessment applies for close contact with a person diagnosed clinically with COVID-19 infection outside of the United States who did not have laboratory testing.
 2. On an aircraft, being seated within 6 feet of a traveler with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection
 - ii. Are living in the same household as, an intimate partner of, or caring for a person in a nonhealthcare setting (such as a home) to a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection while consistently using recommended precautions for home care and home isolation
 - iii. Have traveled from locations with current CDC travel restrictions related to COVID-19 AND not having any exposures that meet a high-risk definition.
 - c. Low-Risk –
 - i. Being in the same indoor environment (e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room) as a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection for a prolonged period of time but not meeting the definition of close contact
 - ii. On an aircraft, being seated within two rows of a traveler with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection but not within 6 feet AND not having any exposures that meet a medium- or a high-risk definition
 - d. No identifiable risk –
 - i. Interactions with a person with symptomatic laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 infection that do not meet any of the high-, medium- or low-risk conditions above, such as walking by the person or being briefly in the same room.

- II. High-risk patients – Transported by Emergency Medical Services
 - a. Transported by EMS, utilizing standard, contact, and airborne precautions, to the closest facility with inpatient monitoring capability.
 - b. If patient is being transferred from a CDC quarantine station, the destination facility may be identified by the CDC.
 - c. Treat symptoms according to clinical protocols.
 - d. Any receiving facility should be notified of the incoming patient immediately when known to be a high-risk patient.
- III. Medium-risk patients
 - a. Patients deemed to be at medium risk may be allowed to continue to their destination with instructions to report to their respective local health department for monitoring under voluntary quarantine.
 - b. In the instance that these patients need EMS transport, they should be transported using standard, contact, and airborne precautions and may be transported to alternate destinations which may include residences, hotels, or other housing facilities.
 - c. The destination for these patients will be coordinated by the local health department.
- IV. Low-risk patients will not be tracked or placed under quarantine. These patients will be under self-observation according to CDC or local health department instruction.
- V. Types of precautions
 - a. Standard precautions - The principle that all blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions except sweat, nonintact skin, and mucous membranes may contain transmissible infectious agents. Standard Precautions include a group of infection prevention practices that apply to all patients, regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status, in any setting in which healthcare is delivered.
 - b. Contact precautions - intended to prevent transmission of infectious agents, including epidemiologically important microorganisms, which are spread by direct or indirect contact with the patient or the patient's environment. Healthcare personnel caring for patients on Contact Precautions wear a gown and gloves for all interactions that may involve contact with the patient or potentially contaminated areas in the patient's environment.
 - c. Airborne precautions – intended to prevent transmission of infectious agents that remain infectious over long distances when suspended in the air. Healthcare personnel caring for patients on Airborne Precautions wear an N95 or higher-level respirator or mask that is donned prior to room entry.
 - d. Contact with these patients should include the use of eye protection.