




Advisory 20-05: COVID-19 Care Guidelines

To: All Providers

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Regional Medical Director

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The following care guidelines for patients with fever and/or cough, or respiratory symptoms concerning for infective illness are in effect immediately:

Non-Patients in the Ambulance:

- Ambulances should not allow family members/others in the cab space of an ambulance.
- Ambulances may consider allowing a family member/other in the patient compartment on a case-by-case basis. In general, only minors should have a family member/care provider in the patient compartment. Family members/others with cough/fever/respiratory symptoms, if not being transported for ED evaluation, may not ride in the ambulance and should remain at home.

Care En Route:

- Any patient with respiratory symptoms concerning for infectious illness should only receive nebulized medications if absolutely necessary in order to decrease aerosol generation.

Emergency Department Arrival:

- Patients being transported to area Emergency Departments with fever, cough, or symptoms concerning for infectious illness should have a surgical mask placed prior to reaching EMS Triage.
- Patients with a mask in place (source control) can proceed directly to EMS triage. Pre-notify hospital according to existing (Non-COVID19) Procedures.
- Patients that cannot wear a mask due to facial features or clinical conditions (respiratory distress, etc) must have prehospital notification prior to arrival and in most cases will be directed to the decontamination area through the exterior entrance to minimize exposure to others in triage. ***Do not enter EMS triage with a potentially infectious patient unless masked or otherwise directed by the receiving facility.***

Our response continues to change nearly daily. Additional updates will be provided as appropriate. With questions, please contact this office.

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