



Standard Operating Procedure

Procedure Title:	Evaluating Patients for MERS-CoV and COVID-19
Date:	3/20/2020
Version:	2.1
Department:	All Office
Approved By:	Brooke Gregory

Purpose:

This SOP is to provide guidance in detecting patients who should be evaluated for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection and COVID-19.

Procedure:

Patients who present with symptoms of fever with acute respiratory illness should be evaluated for MERS-CoV and COVID-19. Guidance in this SOP is provided by the CDC and the Oregon Public Health Department.

1. **If a patient calls in with concerning symptoms** of fever and acute respiratory illness, a medical assistant will screen the patient over the phone for the following Clinical Features and Epidemiologic Risk.
 - a. Medical Assistant is to document all symptoms, timing and answers to risk profile noted below.
 - b. Medical Assistant is to send documented triage to a provider for guidance on if patient should be seen or remain at home. Providers can order COVID-19 testing by following the below criteria and instructions.
 - c. **If patient is suspected of COVID-19 they are NOT to enter the clinic.** If they have acute concerning symptoms like respiratory distress they should be seen in the ER.

2. **If a patient presents to the clinic with concerning symptoms** of fever and acute respiratory illness, the reception team is to immediately:
 - a. Have the patient put on a mask and apply hand sanitizer
 - b. Escort the patient to a private exam room and notify the Medical Assistant
 - c. Team members coming into contact with patients of concern should immediately put on a mask and gloves
 - d. After the patient leaves the clinic, Medical Assistant is to sanitize the exam room and any areas the patient came into contact with immediately, following exam room sanitation procedures

Healthcare providers should evaluate patients in the U.S. for COVID-19 infection if they meet the following criteria, defined as a Person Under Investigation (PUI).

Clinical Features and Epidemiologic Risk

Clinical Features	&	Epidemiologic Risk
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<p>Severe illness: Fever <i>and</i> pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (based on clinical or radiological evidence)</p>	<p>and</p>	<p>A history of travel from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula within 14 days before symptom onset, <i>or</i> close contact with a symptomatic traveler who developed fever and acute respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia) within 14 days after traveling from countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula. – <i>or</i> – A member of a cluster of patients with severe acute respiratory illness (e.g., fever and pneumonia requiring hospitalization) of unknown etiology in which MERS-CoV is being evaluated, in consultation with state and local health departments in the US.</p>
<p>Milder illness Fever <i>and</i> symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g., cough, shortness of breath)</p>	<p>and</p>	<p>A history of being in a healthcare facility (as a patient, worker, or visitor) within 14 days before symptom onset in a country or territory in or near the Arabian Peninsula in which recent healthcare-associated cases of MERS have been identified.</p>
<p>Fever <i>or</i> symptoms of respiratory illness (not necessarily pneumonia; e.g., cough, shortness of breath)</p>	<p>and</p>	<p>Close contact with a confirmed MERS case while they were ill.</p>

The above criteria serve as guidance for testing; however, patients should be evaluated and discussed with public health departments on a case-by-case basis if their clinical presentation or exposure history is equivocal (e.g., uncertain history of health care exposure).

IF a provider feels testing for COVID-19 is appropriate, Asante has an outpatient testing facility operational Monday-Friday 8am – 5pm and Saturday/Sunday 1pm-5pm.

Instructions for ordering COVID-19 Testing:

1. Asante will only accept electronic orders. These can be faxed to 541-789-4970 OR ordered in Athena by:
 - a. Start new order group, find ASANTE as the lab
 - b. Search Rapid Flu (a&b) add note - "Rapid Flu with reflex to COVID-19"
 - c. Search COVID-19 lab, add that order as well



- d. Add appropriate diagnosis codes
 - e. Sign order
2. Instruct patients to drive to the mobile testing facility located in parking lot at the South Fred Meyers on Centre Drive in Medford. They will swab patients for both Flu and COVID and send to the lab for testing. Results will be sent electronically to the ordering provider when available.
 3. Patients should be advised to stay home in quarantine while they wait for test results.

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19. The goal is to support the person who is ill, supply oxygen if needed, and help lessen the symptoms until the immune system kicks in and kills the virus. Most people with COVID-19 appear to have mild disease that doesn't require a medical visit.

As with flu, most people can recover at home without problems. Those with fever and cough who get significant trouble breathing, or feel faint, or parents of a child who gets bluish color of the skin around the mouth should call promptly call 911.

After reading the above stated SOP, please sign in receipt of the policy stating you understand and will follow the outlined procedure. If you have any questions please contact administration for further clarification.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Position