WEST VIRGINIA
Department of
Health&
Human
Resources
BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Flowchart to Identify and Assess for
Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
For the evaluation of patients who may be ill with or who may
have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus

A. Exposure
If in the past 14 days since first onset of symptoms, the individual has a history of either

Live in or travel to geographic areas with sustained community transmission*

← **OR** →

Close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 illness**

B. AND the person has these symptoms
Fever and/or symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath)

If both exposure and symptoms are present

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1. Isolate

- **Place facemask on patient**
- **Isolate the patient in a private room or a separate area with door closed (airborne infection isolation room)**
- **Personnel entering the room should wear appropriate PPE including gloves, gown, respiratory protection (N-95 mask or powered air purifying respirator) and eye protection**
- **Notify healthcare facility's infection control personnel immediately**

2. Assess clinical status (exam)

Is fever present? ☐ Subjective?   ☐ Measured? _____ °C/F

Is respiratory illness present? ☐ Cough?   ☐ Shortness of breath?

Conduct respiratory testing to rule out other common respiratory pathogens (e.g., influenza)
☐ Influenza test _____   ☐ Respiratory panel _____   ☐ Other _____

3. Inform

- **Contact local health department (LHD) immediately to report at-risk patients and their clinical status. If your LHD is not available, call the WV Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at (304) 558-5358 extension 1 or the 24/7 answering service at (304) 347-0843.**
- **In consultation with public health officials, determine patient disposition and need to test for COVID-19.**

If discharged home

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Instruct patient
As needed depending on severity of illness and health department consultation

Home care guidance and self isolation guidance

Advise patient
If the patient develops new or worsening fever or respiratory illness

- **Call healthcare provider to determine if reevaluation is needed**
- **If reevaluation is needed, call ahead**

*For the most up-to-date information, visit: **https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/**
For more clarification on the definition for close contact see CDC's Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals: **www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html.