

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet for Screening Patients at Healthcare Facilities

Updated: 2/12/2020

Patient Screening

All Iowa healthcare facilities should implement screening procedures before or at patient check-in.

Screening questions:

1. Do you have a fever and respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or difficulty breathing)?
2. Did you travel to China in the 14 days before you got sick OR did you have contact with someone with possible COVID-19 in the 14 days before you got sick?

If the answer to both screening questions is yes, and

- If screening was conducted before the patient presented for care, direct the patient to don a surgical mask and enter the facility through a private entrance (if possible).
- If the screening was conducted at patient check-in, direct the patient to don a surgical mask and do not allow the patient to sit in the waiting room.
 - Immediately direct the patient to an exam room or another well-ventilated area that allows patients to be separated by 6+ feet

Patient Assessment

The healthcare provider should assess the patient (using Standard, Contact & Airborne Precautions, including use of eye protection) in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room.

During the assessment, please collect the following information:

1. Respiratory symptoms
2. Vital signs including measured or subjective fever
3. Date of illness onset
4. Location and date of travel to China
5. Description of any contact with ill persons in China
6. Description of any contact with the healthcare system in China

If symptoms are present and travel history is reaffirmed, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health who will provide guidance on whether testing is needed. **During business hours call 800-362-2736 or after hours call 515-323-4360 (ask State Patrol to page the epi on call).**

If testing is approved, IDPH and SHL will provide sample collection guidance and specimens transport will be arranged. Currently all testing must be performed at CDC; therefore testing will take at least 48 hours.

Environmental Cleaning

1. Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures are appropriate for COVID-19 in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
 - Management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.
2. Leave the room out of circulation for 2 hours.