PEDIATRIC OFFICE TRIAGE for Patient Calls w/ Respiratory Symptoms and/or Fever

Goal: limit office visits to those that are absolutely necessary

This tool is a guide for the evaluation of children suspected of COVID-19 infection. It does not replace clinical judgement or decision making.

START: RN/LPN or APC triages pt

If Pt has URI/Mild Symptoms

Mild Symptoms
URI:
No work of breathing, well hydrated

MD / APC advice:
• Symptomatic tx
• Self monitor, call as needed
• Home isolation minimum 7 days and > 3 days resolution of symptoms in the absence of test results.
• Provide home care instructions

If Pt has Moderate/Severe Symptoms

Triage to MD / APRN / PA or Call Center if no clinician available

For otherwise healthy children > 6 months with Moderate Symptoms
Examples include not limited to:
• Mild work of breathing
• Well-hydrated
• Coughing a lot
• Prolonged fever
• Moderate/ Severe pain

Discuss disposition with provider:

Home
Office assessment << Consider telehealth/video assessment if available or outside visits>>
ED visit

For children with underlying health Problem or < 6 months
Examples include not limited to:
• Asthma
• Diabetes
• Immunosuppression or immunodeficiency

Severe Symptoms

For children with severe symptoms
• Moderate/Severe work of breathing
• Tachypneic
• Signs of dehydration
• Lethargy

Needs urgent office assessment or ED and evaluation for hospital admission
• Call before sending to inform COVID-19 suspect
• If ambulance needed must inform COVID-19 suspect

Considerations for testing symptomatic child:
• High risk child
• Cohabitation with HCW, elderly, or high risk individual

For Office visits personal protective equipment (PPE) is required (see accompanying document)
Collection of respiratory samples or throat swabs CONTRAINDICATED unless COVID-19 PPE is available including N95 mask and preferably negative pressure room

Instructions include:
• Home isolation minimum 7 days and ≥ 3 day resolution of symptoms
• Avoid large groups
• Wash hands frequently
• Avoid close contact with people at high risk for COVID-19 complications such as older adults and those with underlying health problems

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Approved by Pediatric Ambulatory COVID-19 Task Force 4.3.20 V.2