ALGORITHM FOR TRIAGE OF PATIENTS WITH POSSIBLE COVID-19 INFECTION IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

MARCH 16, 2020 EDITION

PATIENT

ACUTE RESPIRATORY ILLNESS
Fever (≥38.0°C)
AND/OR
Cough
OR shortness of breath
OR other respiratory symptoms

PERSON UNDER MONITORING (PUM)
ASYMPTOMATIC patients with appropriate EXPOSURE history should be quarantined at home or barangay isolation units for 14 days to monitor for the development of symptoms.
Inform RESU
Fill out CIF.
NO NEED for testing.

• Travel to or residence in a country/area reporting local transmission of COVID-19 (see WHO situation reports for an up-to-date list of countries) OR area under enhanced community quarantine

• CLOSE CONTACT with a confirmed COVID-19 case**
(any of the following)
• Providing direct care without proper PPE*** to confirmed COVID-19 patient
• Staying in the same close environment (incl. workplace, classroom, household, gatherings)
• Traveling together in close proximity (1 meter or 3 feet) in any kind of conveyance

Did the symptoms occur within 14 days of exposure?

PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI)
Verify & coordinate with RESU
Complete the case investigation form (CIF)

MILD
No Comorbid
Non-Elderly
No need to test
Provide instructions for quarantine at home or barangay isolation units

MILD +/- Co-morbid +/- Elderly
SEVERE & CRITICAL
ADMIT to designated COVID-19 isolation area
Collect serum, NPS + OPS (in 1 VTM/UTM) and a lower respiratory tract specimen, if possible
Refer to CPG
Patients who refuse admission must be referred for disposition to RESU

NOT PUI NOR PUM

• A patient with severe acute respiratory infection or atypical pneumonia AND requiring hospitalization AND with no other etiology to fully explain the clinical presentation, regardless of exposure history
• Cluster ofILI cases in household or workplace

NOT PUI NOR PUM
Refer to ER or other clinic for appropriate work-up and management

*** PROPER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
1. Well-fitting N95 mask (fit-tested)
2. Eye protection (goggles or face shield)
3. Impermeable gown
4. Surgical gloves
The reader is referred to the Guidelines on Infection Control for COVID-19.

COVID-19 – CoronaVirus Disease 2019; PPE – personal protective equipment; RESU – Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit; CIF – Case Investigation Form; NPS – Nasopharyngeal swab; OPS – oropharyngeal swab; VTM – viral transport medium; UTM – universal transport medium

This algorithm is consistent with the WHO surveillance definition of COVID-19 as of 27 February 2020 and may change depending on evolving information on transmission patterns and pathogenicity of the virus.

**CONFIRMED case – A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms

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ALGORITHM FOR TRIAGE OF PATIENTS WITH POSSIBLE COVID-19 INFECTION IN PORTS OF ENTRY

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TRAVELLER

TRAVEL HISTORY
In the past 14 days to countries with local transmission AND risk of importation OR areas with enhanced community quarantine

YES

SYMPTOMS
Fever (≥38.0°C) AND/OR Respiratory illness (cough and/or colds)

NO

HISTORY OF EXPOSURE WITHIN 14 DAYS
A. Providing direct care for COVID-19 patient
B. Working together or staying in the same close environment of a COVID-19
C. Traveling together with COVID-19 patient in any kind of conveyance
D. Living in the same household as a COVID-19 patient

YES

PERSON UNDER MONITORING (PUM)
Quarantine at home or barangay isolation units

PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION (PUI)
If with mild no co-morbid, non-elderly, provide instructions for quarantine at home or barangay isolation units

If with mild +/- co-morbid +/- elderly and severe manifestations, collect swab and refer to L2/L3 hospitals

NO

NOT PUI NOR PUM
Manage appropriately

1 To be evaluated weekly by the ASEAN Biodiaspora Virtual Center. Separate advisory will be issued every Wednesday to determine countries to be included.
2 Mild manifestations include fever, dry cough, fatigue, sputum production, sore throat, headache, myalgia or arthralgia, chills, nausea or vomiting, nasal congestion, diarrhea
3 Severe manifestations include difficulty of breathing and/or respiratory rate ≥30/minute
4 Persons with underlying medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, chronic lung disease, and immunosuppression