



County of El Dorado

Emergency Medical Services Agency

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*****PARAMEDIC ALERT***** **No. 2022-01**

January 20, 2022

TO: EMS Personnel
FROM: El Dorado County EMS Agency
SUBJECT: Assess and Refer for possible COVID-19 patients

PURPOSE: To guide the evaluation and transport decisions for patients experiencing mild respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Background:

1. El Dorado County is experiencing an outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) – 2 coronavirus known as COVID-19.
2. Based on the current outbreak, most infected persons experience mild illness and fully recover. Those at high risk for severe illness and/or complications are patients who are elderly or have underlying medical conditions. However, some persons with no underlying illness will have a severe disease course.
3. Patients with COVID-19 may look comfortable and have relatively little dyspnea despite significant hypoxia.
4. The CDC recommends that low-risk patients potentially infected with COVID-19 in mild form, self-isolate at home unless symptoms worsen.
5. Other respiratory illnesses such as influenza may present similarly, but for low-risk patients without signs of severe illness, the recommendations are the same.
6. EMS personnel shall wear appropriate PPE at all times when in contact with patients with a potential infectious disease and place a surgical mask on the patient for source control.

ALERT:

A Paramedic Alert was released on 03/16/2020 regarding Guidance for Assessment / Disposition of Patients with calls concerning COVID-19 potential exposures or symptoms. This notice serves as update to that Paramedic Alert.

If called to assist a patient exhibiting:

- Respiratory symptoms consistent with “1) Low risk potential COVID-19 patients” as defined below, *and*
- An otherwise uncomplicated clinical presentation as defined below under “1) Low risk potential COVID-19 patients” *and*
- Presentation consistent with the “2) Low risk criteria for mild respiratory illness” as defined below
- Concern over a potential exposure to COVID-19 and otherwise asymptomatic
- Seeking testing for COVID-19 and otherwise asymptomatic

The patient may be advised to self-isolate and stay in their own residence. They should also be advised that if their symptoms worsen to contact their primary healthcare provider for further guidance or 911 if needed.

The assessment, findings and overall patient interaction must be documented appropriately on an ePCR and should articulate that the patient understood and voluntarily concurred with the advice rendered prior to signing. An AMA form should not be utilized as this process is not consistent with the patient not following medical advice, and the patient should be transported if they continue to request it.

Patients exhibiting more significant symptoms such as high fevers and/or severe cough with respiratory difficulty should be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility per protocol.

DEFINITIONS:

1) Low risk potential COVID-19 patients: Patients greater than 12 months of age and less than 65 years of age with minor respiratory complaints (e.g., cough, sore throat, rhinorrhea) with or without fever, who are ambulatory, not homeless, and have NONE of the following: complaint of shortness of breath or chest pain or syncope, abnormal vital signs for age, history of significant comorbid disease including COPD, CHF, cardiac disease, renal failure, diabetes, pregnancy, immunodeficiency, or an emergency medical condition per paramedic judgment.

2) Low risk criteria for mild respiratory illness:

Patient presents with mild respiratory symptoms and the Provider Impression is Cold/Flu/Mild COVID-19	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> *
Age >12 months and <65 years	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Shortness of Breath	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Chest Pain	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Syncope	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
VITAL SIGNS are NORMAL • Adults: SBP ≥90mmHg, HR 60-100, RR 12-20, O ₂ ≥94%	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Pulse Oximetry ≥94% on room air <u>with ambulation</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO COPD	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO CHF or Cardiac Disease	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Pregnancy	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Renal Failure (not on dialysis)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Diabetes	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Immunodeficiency (e.g., chemotherapy for cancer, taking steroids, HIV)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Not Homeless	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
NO Emergent Medical Condition per EMS Provider Judgment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>