

COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR MEDICAL OFFICE

■ **What are the recommendations of Trinity Health Of New England to screen and test our patients – prior to their arrival and upon their arrival to the practice?**

Prior to arrival of the patient preferably and upon arrival of all patients during the intake, ask these questions:

- ▶ Any international travel in the past 14 days (specifically to China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Iran and Italy)
- ▶ Any contact with person/ people under investigation for Coronavirus infection
- ▶ Symptoms like fever or cough or shortness of breath

If positive screening prior to arrival, transfer the patient to nurse for further investigation and follow up, as appropriate.

If positive screening upon arrival to the facility:

- ▶ Patients with positive screening (positive symptoms, travel history or contact) should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed.
- ▶ CDC currently recommends healthcare personnel evaluating persons under investigation (PUI) in ambulatory settings should use standard precautions, airborne precautions and contact precautions (e.g: goggles/ face shield, surgical mask, gloves).

Please see attached the recommended risk stratification and decision-making flow chart.

■ **What must healthcare personnel do when they identify a PUI (at the facility and by phone)?**

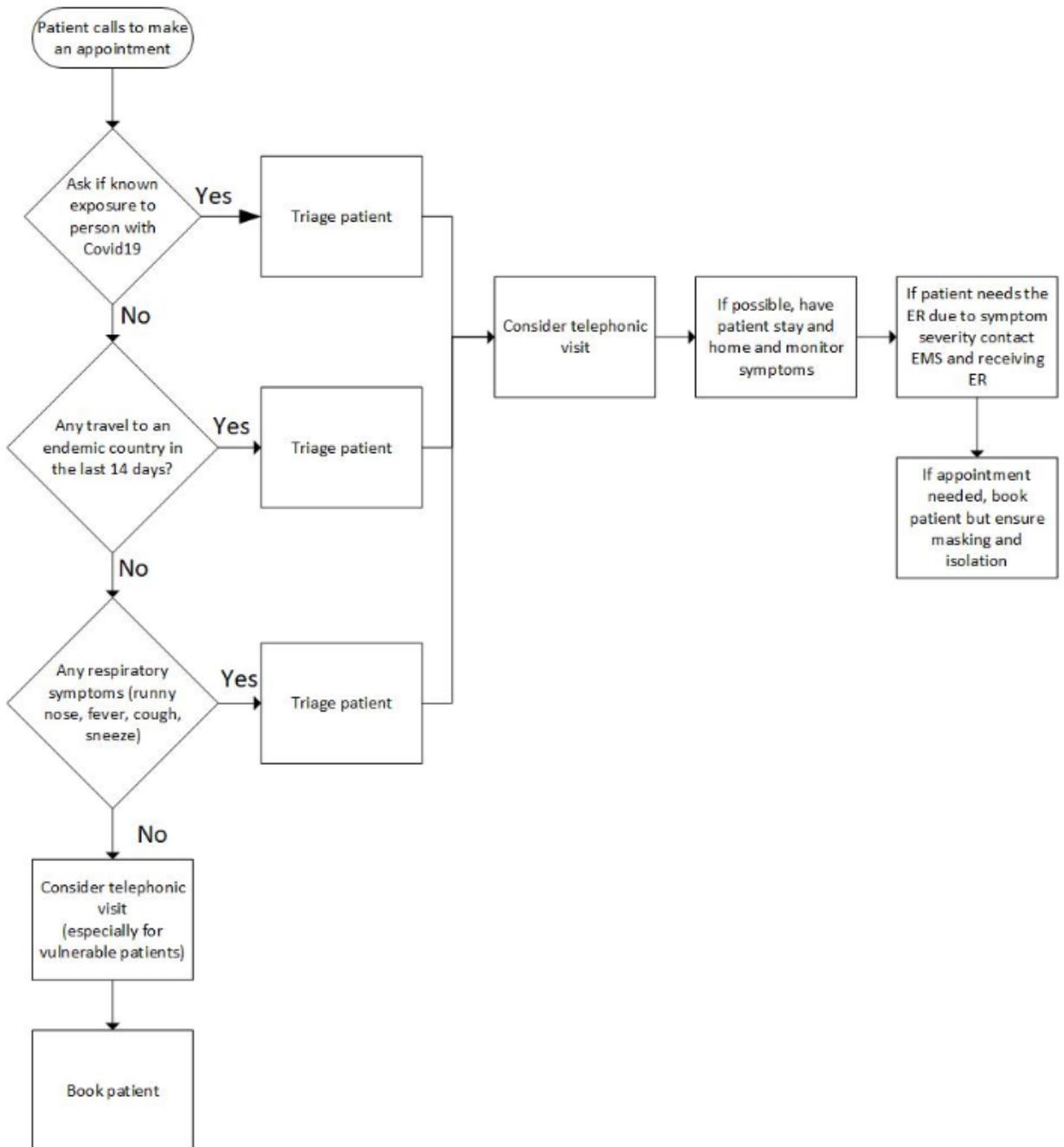
- ▶ Follow the infection control precautions noted above if patient is at the facility.
- ▶ Notify DPH immediately if you identify PUI based on your screening on phone or at the facility (Connecticut DPH: 860-509-8000; Mass DPH: 617-983-6800)
- ▶ Empiric testing for other pathogens (Influenza, etc.) should be done as part of initial evaluation, if warranted.
- ▶ The decision to monitor these patients in the inpatient or outpatient setting should be made on a

case-by-case basis. This decision will depend on clinical symptoms/ presentation, co-morbidities, patient's ability to engage in monitoring, ability for safe isolation at home, and the risk of transmission in the patient's home environment.

- ▶ In-home isolation should be maintained and recommended if decision is made to send or keep the patient at home. In home isolation discontinuation can be made on a case-by case basis in consultation with DPH based on results of testing for COVID-19 in respiratory specimens if done, disease severity, and progress of illness signs and symptoms.

APPROACH TO COVID-19 SCREENING WHILE MAKING A PATIENT APPOINTMENT

Covid19 Protocol When Making a Patient Appointment



APPROACH TO COVID-19 SCREENING WHILE PATIENT IS IN OFFICE

COVID19 Protocol for screening patient who presents to the office

