

PPG COVID-19 Policy for screening, monitoring/notification for COVID-19

Screening Policy

- 1) If a patient calls an outpatient clinic with possible symptoms of COVID-19 that are severe (new onset dyspnea that is significant enough to alter activities of daily living) those patients are told to go to EC for immediate evaluation.
- 2) If symptoms are mild they are referred to the Phoebe COVID-19 Hotline 229-312-1919. Staff on the line will do screening. Ask symptoms first (fever greater than 100.4, New Onset Cough, New Onset shortness of breath). Ask Travel history (travel by patient or family member within 14 days of symptoms). Ask Exposure history risk (have they had direct contact with a positive test) or have they been to any recent gathering attended by 50 or more people. Ask about Chronic Conditions (COPD, Asthma, CHD, Diabetes, Hypertension) and Immunocompromised State (cancer, auto-immune disease, sickle-cell anemia, down-syndrome, HIV/AIDS, CKD, CVD). Ask about age (65 or older at higher risk of significant disease).
- 3) If they have fever + one other symptom at they are over 65, have recent travel history, have and underlying medical condition or high exposure risk then we are to test. The screening nurse will schedule an appointment with CV Drive-up Provider under PFA Rheum Schedule in Athena. The test are to be ordered under Dr. Heard's name in Athena. The patients will be advised to self-quarantine until test results are received.
- 4) If patients are actually at the outpatient clinic and need to be tested based on CDC criteria and we have testing supplies in office then they may order test in office and perform. If testing supplies not in office we will then call the hotline and get an appt scheduled to go through drive up site.

Monitoring/Notification Policy

We will be monitoring patients daily while we are awaiting their results. A smart sheet that has been created that will track the patients that have been tested and the status of the test. The staff members that are monitoring the patients will be creating a case in Athena daily to track calls.

If Results pending:

1. Will ask if they have you checked their temperature at least twice in the last 24 hrs? Is it 100.4 or higher?
2. Have they developed a new symptom or worsening of previous symptoms? If so, what is new or worsening?
3. Are they still practicing social distancing/isolation?
4. Remind them to practice good hygiene (hand washing for at least 20 seconds, use of hand sanitizer, covering cough with tissue or coughing into elbow)

If Negative Result:

1. Notify patient that result is negative.

2. Remind to continue to practice good hygiene and practice social distancing because patient could still be exposed.
3. They are to contact their primary care provider for further recommendations concerning treatment of symptoms.
4. Results will be mailed to patient

If Patient has a Positive Result They are to be called by Physician or APP

1. Notify patient that result is positive.
2. Notify patient that we will notify their primary care provider.
3. Notify patient they need to self-quarantine for 14 days from the day they were tested.
4. Notify patient they need to practice hygiene (same as above)
5. Notify patient they need to present to EC if they have worsening of symptoms (shortness of breath, cough).
6. Remind patient that we will be checking on them daily during the 14 day quarantine.
7. Results will be mailed to patient