

# **Emerging Diseases Protocol**

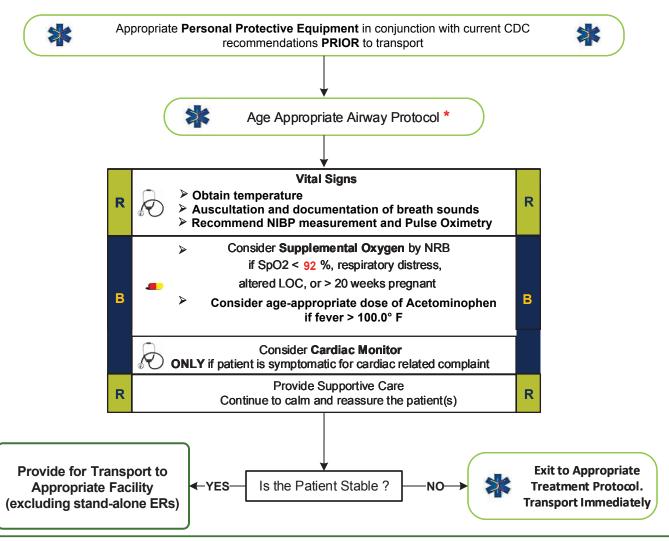


- Positive 911 EMD / PSAP Screening
- Travel history to or residence in a region with prevalent COVID-19 within 14 days in conjunction with signs and symptoms listed within this protocol. Regions currently include Japan, South Korea, Iran, Italy, China \*\*

### Signs and Symptoms

- Fever
- Respiratory symptoms
  - Shortnes of breath
    Cough

- Differential
- Cold / Influenza
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Hyperglycemia
- Other Viral / Bacterial Infections



If your agency is providing transport, alert the Receiving Medical Facility:

- As soon as feasible, confidentially notify the Receiving Facility that you are transporting a patient that has an exposure history and signs and symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.
- \* DO NOT TAKE THE PATIENT INTO THE MEDICAL FACILITY UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.
- \* MEDICAL FACILITY PERSONNEL WILL DIRECT YOU TO THE PROPER ROOM THROUGH A SAFE ENTRANCE.

 No routine aerosol generating procedures unless absolutely medically necessary. This includes CPAP / BiPAP. Advanced airway procedures should be performed under controlled conditions while not in motion.
 \*\* For the most updated list see chart at <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html</u>



If additional guidance is needed or questions arise you are free to contact your local DHEC EPI hotline.

#### UPSTATE:

Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union **864.423.6648**  MIDLANDS: Aiken, Barnwell, Chester, Edgefield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexingtron, Newberry, Richland, Saluda, York 888.801.1046 PEE DEE: Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, Williamsburg 843.915.8845

#### LOWCOUNTRY:

Allendale, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg 843.441.1091

# Pearls:

## Incubation period 2 – 14 days.

- ✤ A patient can be infectious when asymptomatic.
- Withhold invasive procedures unless, absolutely necessary:
  - Limit the use of needles and other sharps as much as possible. All needles and sharps should be handled with extreme care and disposed of in puncture-proof, sealed containers. Safety devices must be employed immediately after use.
  - > Do not attempt any invasive procedures while in motion to minimize exposure risk(s).
  - > The best protection is limited exposure.
- Transport of a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patient by rotorcraft is discouraged due to the inability of the aircraft to isolate the pilot from the patient area. Pilots must be free to immediatley don emergency oxygen masks and the wearing of an N95 particulate respirator in a non-isolated compartment precludes carrying out this emergency procedure.
- Remain cognizant that potential patients may experience heightened anxiety due to situation and EMS Responders in PPE.

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