

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

GUIDANCE FOR

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

This guidance is for Community Health Representatives to address recommended infection prevention and control practices when these activities are performed during a home visit.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CONDUCTING HOME VISITS¹

When making a home visit, it is recommended to identify patients at risk for having COVID-19 symptoms before or immediately upon arrival to the home. Useful information can include the following:

- ▶ Has the patient traveled within the last 14 days to countries affected by the COVID-19 infection? (China, Italy, Japan, Iran)
- ▶ Does the patient have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and sore throat?
- ▶ In the last 14 days, has the patient come into contact with someone that had or possibility has COVID-19, or might have another respiratory sickness?
- ▶ Does the patient live in a community where there have been cases of COVID-19?

If the patient is sick, would like to seek medical attention immediately, and requires transportation, **please ask your supervisor and/or public health nurse for approval prior to transporting any community member to the clinic.** Once you get approval, request the patient to do the following as recommended by the CDC:

- ▶ Place facemask over their nose and mouth.
- ▶ Maintain at least six feet of separation between you and the patient at all times.
- ▶ We ask that you escort the patient for check-in if possible.
- ▶ After the patient has exited your vehicle, please use the standard disinfection recommendations, which include the use of anti-bacterial/anti-viral disinfectant wipes to wipe all areas touched by patient, including door handles and car seats, and use an aerosol disinfectant spray to spray the air inside the vehicle.
- ▶ Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

- ▶ **Standard precautions assume that every person might be infected with the virus and could spread it.**
- ▶ **If entering a home or room of a patient with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, follow standard precautions and use a respirator or facemask, gown, gloves, and eye protection. When available, use respirators (instead of facemasks).**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EVERYONE IN THE HOME¹

- ▶ If someone in the home is sick or is suspected of being sick, the CDC advises:
 - ▶ Cover coughs and sneezes followed by handwashing or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - ▶ Do not share personal items (e.g., dishes, utensils, bedding).
 - ▶ Clean all “high-touch” surfaces daily with household cleaners and disinfectants.
 - ▶ Monitor for symptoms.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19²

- ▶ **Reported symptoms have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases.**
 - ▶ The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:
 - ▶ Fever (>100.4⁰ F [37.8⁰ C])
 - ▶ Cough
 - ▶ Shortness of breath
 - ▶ Appears obviously unwell
- ▶ **If you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 call your health care provider immediately for follow-up care.**

REFERENCES

¹Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services, Guidance for Infection Control and Prevention Concerning Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Home Health Agencies. (March 10, 2020). Retrieved March 13, 2020.

²CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Symptoms. (February 29, 2020). Retrieved March 12, 2020 from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

