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 VISITS

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 came 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.
**Symptoms of COVID-19**

Reported symptoms have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases.

- Fever (>100.4°F [37.8°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.

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**Recommendations for Everyone in the Home**

- 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.

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**References**