

Destination and Transport for Patients at Risk for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Purpose: To direct patient transport and destination for patients with confirmed or suspected Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19).

- I. Applicable Patients –
 - A. Symptomatic patients with confirmed COVID-19 (positive test)
 - B. Patients who meet the current clinical criteria for suspected COVID-19
- II. Patients Transported by Emergency Medical Services
 - A. Transported by EMS, utilizing standard, contact, and airborne precautions, to the closest facility with inpatient critical care capabilities, if such a facility is within 60 minutes and patient is not in severe respiratory distress or continuing to deteriorate after initiation of supplemental oxygen.
 - B. Medical control may have a specific facility designated for patients with known or suspected COVID-19.
 - C. Patient may request a specific facility if:
 - i. The facility has appropriate facilities and capabilities and
 - D. Transport time is within 60 minutes. Treat patient according to **Clinical Treatment of a Patient with Suspected COVID-19** protocol.
 - E. The receiving facility should be notified of the incoming patient as early as practical.
 - F. Destination facilities may be facilities other than emergency departments or surgical centers per direction of medical control depending on current system capacity and clinical status of patient (e.g., low acuity).
 - G. Hospitals may need to go on diversion (via emResource) if it is determined they have insufficient capacity or capability to admit COVID-19 patients.
 - H. Patients presenting with potential COVID-19 are at risk for deterioration and may benefit from early, aggressive critical care services.
 - i. Patients should bypass closer hospitals without critical care services and transport directly to hospitals with critical care services (as designated by local medical control) when the transport time to such hospitals is less than 60 minutes.
 - ii. Patients remaining hypoxic after high-flow oxygen, those with significant respiratory distress despite oxygen, and those appearing in need of intubation should go to the closest hospital with emergency services.
 - I. Final destination determination, if in question, will be from online medical control. 

St. Clair County MCA

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Protocol Source/References: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/risk-assessment.html>,
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/isolation/precautions.html>