

SCREENING AND TRIAGING

1. PRIVATE FACILITIES

Private Clinic

- **Provide good visual signages** in all relevant languages requesting patients to declare symptoms, travel or contact with a confirmed case
- Through verbal and visual cues, identify those with respiratory symptoms and **offer masks and hand sanitizer**
- **Rapidly assess verbally** if the patient has epidemiological links that might qualify him/her as a PUI. **(refer to Annex 1)**
 - If uncertain, discuss with medical / Infectious disease specialist at nearest screening hospital
- If PUI
 - place patient in a pre-designated waiting area¹
 - Take patients identifiers (name, IC/passport, telephone number, address) for notification to PKD (and arranging transport if necessary)
 - Patient may use his/her own transport to nearest screening hospital (public transport not allowed)
 - If patient does not have private transportation, contact PKD for transport arrangement.
- After patient leaves – disinfect waiting area

¹Pre-designated area

- more than 1m away from other patients and staff
- minimal surrounding items to minimize items requiring disinfecting

Private Hospital

- **Provide good visual signages** in all relevant languages requesting patients to declare symptoms, travel or contact with a confirmed case
- Through verbal and visual cues, identify those with respiratory symptoms and **offer masks and hand sanitizer**
- **Clinically assess the severity** and whether the patient qualifies as a PUI (in isolation room using appropriate).
 - If uncertain, discuss with medical / Infectious disease specialist at nearest screening hospital
- If severe PUI
 - Contact admitting medical / ID specialist at Admitting Hospital to arrange for admission.
 - If case accepted, to contact PKD to arrange transportation.

- If mild PUI:
 - Take patients identifiers (name, IC/passport, telephone number, address) for notification to PKD (and arranging transport if necessary)
 - Patient may use his/her own transport to nearest screening hospital (public transport not allowed)
 - If patient does not have private transportation, contact PKD for transport arrangement.
- After patient leaves – disinfect isolation room
- If the patient does not fulfill PUI criteria, but clinical suspicion remains, take samples and send to designated private laboratories (Annex 4a)

2. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

- Patients who come to the respective health facilities should be screened for suspected COVID-19 at triage.
- A special area should be set up for PUI of COVID-19, to which he / she can come directly and to be assessed there.
- The PUI should be managed by a dedicated team where possible.

- **WHEN SHOULD YOU SUSPECT COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is to be suspected when a patient presents to Triage Counter with the following:

Fever **OR** acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of respiratory infection with at least one of: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat)
AND
 Travel to Affected in the 14 days before the onset of illness **OR**
 Close contact¹ in 14 days before illness onset with a confirmed case of COVID-19

- Should a patient fulfill the description, to institute infection prevention and control measures as the following:
 - ✓ Place patients at least 1 meter away from other patients or health care workers. Clinics and Emergency Departments are to prepare an isolation area / room for patients.
 - ✓ Ensure strict hand hygiene for all clinic staffs and suspected patient.
 - ✓ Provide surgical mask to patients if not contraindicated.
 - ✓ Personal protective equipment as per recommendation should be worn at all times.
 - ✓ After the encounter, ensure proper disposal of all PPE that have been used
 - ✓ Decontamination of the isolation area and equipments used should be done.

- A group of suspected PUI who come to any healthcare facilities in a specific vehicle (e.g. bus, van) should be contained in that vehicle until being evaluated by a dedicated team to minimize exposure to healthcare workers and other patients.

NOTE:

It is not always possible to identify patients with COVID-19 early because some have mild or unusual symptoms. For this reason, it is important that health care workers apply standard precautions consistently with all patients – regardless of their diagnosis in all work practices all the time.