Renown® HEALTH

Update: COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

Managing a patient with respiratory illness

Contact Center:

- Ask caller about presence of sign and symptoms of respiratory illness. If yes, instruct the patient to don mask upon entry to healthcare facility and inform PAR

Patient Access Representative (PAR):

- Ask <u>all</u> patients presenting with any respiratory illness to wear a surgical mask at check-in to prevent potential spread of an infectious disease.

- If in the last 14 days, the patient has traveled or has had close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 illness, ensure patient is wearing mask and immediately room patient to private room with a closed door (airborne isolation room if possible) where the provider can conduct an in-depth assessment. If a room is not available implement distancing patient (6 feet) from others.

Healthcare Team:

- Utilize airborne, contact and standard precautions as well as eye protection. (PPE: PAPR/CAPR/N95, gown, gloves, goggles/face shield).

- Obtain a detailed travel and exposure history for patients being evaluated with fever[1], cough or acute respiratory illness.

- Assess and test the patient as you would for any acute respiratory illness order appropriate testing (see table).

- If testing for COVID-19 is desired patient must meet CDC criteria: has acute respiratory illness, and screened for alternative respiratory illness diagnosis

Laboratory Tests to Order*
1. *Influenzae OR if, ≤3 yrs. old <u>Flu and RSV</u>* 2. <u>Group A Strep</u>
3. If both the above tests are negative then order <u>Respiratory Panel by PCR</u> (LAB0000712) Please note: Respiratory Panel by PCR does NOT test for the COVID-19, therefore a negative coronavirus result does NOT rule out COVID-19.
*Specimens Required: One throat swab in purple top E-swab transport <u>and</u> one NP swab in Viral Transport Media

- COVID-19 testing approval must be obtained from The Washoe County Health District (775) 328-2447 prior to ordering and collecting specimens.

- Inform Renown Infection Prevention of any COVID-19 testing approved by WCHD by leaving the MRN on the secured phone (982-5662) or emailing infection.prevention.control@renown.org

- If the patient does not require hospitalization they can be discharged home with appropriate discharge instructions for supportive care/treatment and instructions for patient to stay home (self-isolate) to avoid spreading illness to others.

In Preparation of Increased Respiratory Illness

Due to the emergence of COVID-19 and that this is peak influenza season respiratory protection is in high demand worldwide. Therefore, Renown is conserving our supply of airborne isolation and respiratory protection. The use of PAPR's is preferred over N95 masks and CAPR's as the shrouds for PAPR's can be cleaned and reused. Implementing

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[1] Fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain fever-lowering medications. Clinical judgment should be used to guide testing of patients in such situations.

extended use and/or reuse practices may be implemented as well (see Emerging Infectious Disease Policy for details)