

COVID-19 Alternative Destination Tool



COVID-19 Positive Screen

Updated on
7/6/2020

Perform patient evaluation
Obtain vital signs

Does the patient have a low oxygen saturation
or increased work of breathing?

Oxygen Saturation Category
Severe Moderate
O₂ Sat <90% O₂ Sat <94%

SEVERE

MODERATE

NO

- 1) Transport the patient to the nearest emergency department via BLS or ALS transport based on full patient assessment.
- 2) Notify the receiving facility of a positive COVID-19 screen, primary symptoms, and aerosolizing procedures in use.

Evaluate patient for special considerations or increased work of breathing.+ If present, place in Severe symptom category.

1. Send patient to the nearest alternate care site or ED.*
2. Notify the receiving facility of a positive COVID-19 screen, primary symptoms, and aerosolizing procedures in use.

Evaluate patient for special considerations or increased work of breathing.+ If present, place in Moderate symptom category.

1. Proceed with [home isolation](#) and COVID-19 hotline referral.**
2. Provide strict call-back instructions***

Special Considerations

Per CDC guidelines, patients with advanced age or significant medical comorbidities (heart conditions, lung problems, diabetes, etc.) should be transported to a higher level of care.

* EMS agencies should consider using an alternative destination policy when the state approves use of these services or when the EMS agency identifies that increased call volumes are impacting their ability to deliver normal care. Alternate care sites can include outpatient and primary care clinics, urgent cares, screening tents, and telemedicine resources.

** The COVID-19 Hotline is 1-844-542-8201.

*** Patients with COVID-19 should be told that they could get worse. If they should feel worse or have significant difficulty breathing, they should call 911 again.

+ Consider online medical direction for patients left at home to facilitate follow-up and for patients in the moderate category to assess for safety to remain at home.