The Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus Infection

Identify exposure history:
In the 14 days before symptom onset, patient traveled from China or had close contact with a confirmed or suspected case of 2019 novel Coronavirus (nCoV).

Identify signs and symptoms:
Fever (subjective or >100.4F or 38.0 C) or symptoms of lower respiratory illness, such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

Isolate and Prevent Transmission:
Mask patient and move to a negative pressure airborne isolation room. If unavailable, move to private room with door closed. Health care personnel should use contact and airborne precautions and eye protection (i.e. gowns, gloves, N95 respirator, PAPR and goggles or face shield).

Inform:
Immediately notify facility’s infection prevention department and local public health department.

Further evaluation and management:
a. Complete history and physical examination. Decision to test for nCoV must be made in coordination with health department as only the CDC can conduct nCoV testing.
b. Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen shipping to CDC if testing for nCoV is indicated.
c. Perform routine interventions (e.g. placement of peripheral IV) as indicated by clinical status.

Questions? Contact the infection prevention department at your facility.