It is imperative that we continue to provide necessary care for patients in our community in the most appropriate setting. This algorithm was developed based upon CDC guidelines, with input from the Infection Prevention Team at ChristianaCare. It will be updated and reposted on the ChristianaCare website, as conditions and clinical recommendations change.

- Our Emergency Departments will need to maintain adequate capacity to care for COVID patients with severe illness.
- Patients at risk or diagnosed with COVID who are stable, should be managed at home. Do not send these patients to the Emergency Department.

### Suggested Triage Process

**March 19, 2020**

**BASIC SYMPTOM CHECK**
Are you having ANY of the following?
- Fever
- New cough
- New shortness of breath

**TRAVEL / EXPOSURE RISK CHECK**
Any of the following in the last 14 days?
- Travel on cruise ship
- Travel to CDC level 3 travel advisory country
- Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case
- COVID test positive or pending
- Under quarantine/self-isolation as directed by health dept

**ASSESS ADDITIONAL TRAVEL / EXPOSURE RISK**
Any of the following in the last 14 days before symptom onset?
- Travel on cruise ship
- Travel to CDC level 3 travel advisory country
- Close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case
- COVID test positive or pending
- Under quarantine/self-isolation as directed by health dept

**LOWER / MODERATE SUSPICION FOR COVID**
- Triage any chronic conditions as usual
- Treat empirically for flu, if clinically indicated (e.g. high risk patients). Flu testing will not be done at COVID testing site.
- Use clinical judgement regarding COVID testing. AVOID testing with no fever and a predominance of upper respiratory symptoms like rhinorrhea, congestion, sore throat.
- Give Self Care Education

**TESTING RECOMMENDATIONS**
Providers should use clinical judgment and consider testing:
- Patients >65 years old
- Individuals with chronic health conditions, immunocompromise, etc.

**ORDER COVID TESTING**
Please see ChristianaCare’s Health Professional Coronavirus support webpage for information on ChristianaCare Provider Referral Centers.

**SELF CARE EDUCATION** - example language below
"Corona virus is often hard to distinguish for other cold and flu symptoms. We may not always have access to testing, but testing does not change how we will immediately manage your care. We recommend caring for yourself at home in a similar manner to patients with Corona virus and therefore recommend you:
- Restrict activities outside your home.
- Avoid the ER and Medical Aid Units unless you are severely ill.
- Self-quarantine for 14 days (if able)
- Separate yourself from other people in your home
- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing household items like dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items with other people in your home.
- Monitor your symptoms and contact us if your temperature rises or you develop shortness of breath."

**CLINICIAN to call ahead to ED to prepare for patient**

**Can the patient be evaluated and managed outside of an emergency or acute care setting?**

**Suspected Symptomatic COVID**
Triage any chronic conditions as usual
Treat empirically for flu, if clinically indicated (e.g. high risk patients). Flu testing will not be done at COVID testing site.

**ORDER COVID TESTING**
Please see ChristianaCare’s Health Professional Coronavirus support webpage for information on ChristianaCare Provider Referral Centers.

**While test pending follow self-care education in the box to the right.**

**POSITIVE TEST**
If patient tests positive and remains stable, they will be monitored at home by DPH.

**FOLLOW HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS**
Refer to ChristianaCare’s Health Professionals Coronavirus support webpage for the guidance: Prevention Steps for People Confirmed to Have, or Being Evaluated for 2019-nCoV Infection Who Receive Care at Home

Advise patient to call PCP with worsening symptoms.