COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Use by Ambulance Services when PRIMARY POINT of Contact

**INITIAL ACTIONS**
1. **ISOLATE PATIENT**
2. Implement **STANDARD CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS** and explain the **NOW** and **NEXT** to the patient
3. **SURGICAL MASK** for patients with respiratory symptoms (if tolerated)

**ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IF ATTENDING PATIENT ON AIRCRAFT**

**AMBULANCE PERSONNEL** should:

A. In addition to Standard Precautions initiate **CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS** before entering.
B. **DISTRIBUTE and COLLECT** Passenger Locator Cards for (i) Passengers in close contact with a possible case (ii) crew serving the person or that section
C. **FORWARD** these Passenger Locator Cards directly to **local PUBLIC HEALTH** Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
D. **REQUEST CABIN CREW** to: (i) Broadcast the Travel Health Alert Announcement (ii) Distribute and collect Passenger Locator Card from ALL OTHER passengers and crew (iii) Distribute a copy of the Travel Health Alert Announcement leaflet to all passenger and crew (iv) Send completed Passenger Locator Cards to the local Public Health MOH
E. ALL WELL PASSENGERS should then be allowed to **DISEMBARK**, using the nearest exit.

**CLINICAL CRITERIA**

1. A patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath) **AND** with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation; **OR**
2. A patient with any acute respiratory illness **AND** having been in close contact\(^1\) with a confirmed or probable\(^2\) COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms;

Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics should be alert to the possibility of atypical (including non-respiratory) presentations in older patients, younger patients and in those who are immunocompromised

\(^1\) Close contact: <2 metres face-to-face contact for greater than 15 minutes
\(^2\) Probable case: A suspected case for whom testing for virus causing COVID-19 is inconclusive (according to the test results reported by the laboratory)

**STANDARD PRECAUTIONS (SP)**

See here. Surgical masks should be worn:
1. When providing care to all patients (within 2 metres)
2. For all encounters, ≥15 minutes, with other HCWs in the workplace where a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained

**CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS:**
- Gloves
- Long-sleeved gown
- Eye protection
- Respiratory protection (surgical mask use with all patients, with FFP2/3 masks reserved for aerosol generating procedures)
- Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette

**CONTACT DETAILS**

NIU: 01-830 1122 (Ask for ID Consultant on call)

PUBLIC HEALTH MOH: (OOH 0818 501999)
- HSE E: 01 635 2145
- HSE M: 057 935 9891
- HSE MW: 061 483 337
- HSE NE: 046 907 6412
- HSE NW: 071 985 2900
- HSE SE: 056 778 4142
- HSE S: 021 492 7601
- HSE W: 091 775 200

HPSC: 01-8765 300
OOH: 086 7810393

Please note background colour coding indicates infection control precautions as per right-hand panel

Transport to nearest **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**YES**

**NO**

COVID-19 UNLIKELY

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