

Risk Stratification Guide for Severity Assessment and Triage of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Patients (Adults) in Urgent Care

***These criteria are to be used as an adjunct to the clinical evaluation that is performed by the clinician at the urgent care site.**

General Guidelines:

- For urgent care centers which do not have the COVID-19 testing capabilities, patients who are stable and want to get tested or need testing should be referred to a local non-emergency department site or facility. This is to decrease unnecessary patient volumes in the emergency department (ED).
- Prior to sending patients to the ED, please contact the ED to make sure that they will be able to test the patient for COVID-19. This is applicable for ED transfers of patients in whom COVID-19 infection is a concern. Patients transferred should have a surgical mask in place.

Presenting Symptoms:

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to SARS-CoV-2. Presenting symptoms may include: Cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell. Additional reported symptoms include rhinorrhea, sputum production, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain.

Risk Category	Clinical Presentation
<p>Category I</p> <p>Consider discharge and home monitoring with explicit home monitoring instructions</p>	<p>Symptomatic patient, PLUS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinically well appearing, and, • Resting O2 Sat >94% (at sea level) on room air, and, • No desaturation with ambulation, and, • No tachypnea, RR <20.
<p>Category II</p> <p>Strongly recommend transfer to ED</p>	<p>Symptomatic patient, PLUS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient appears toxic and in distress, or, • Resting O2 sat ≤ 93% (sea level) on room air, or desaturation on ambulation, or, • Patients requiring bronchodilator treatment, or, • Systolic BP <90mmHg, Diastolic BP <60mmHg, or, • Respiratory Rate >24/min, or, • Change in mentation, or, • Pulse >120 bpm
<p>Category III</p> <p>Consider transfer to ED</p>	<p>Symptomatic patient, PLUS,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age >60, and, • Existing conditions such as Diabetes Mellitus, HTN, CHF, CAD, COPD (or any chronic or severe lung disease), CKD, Cancer, Immunosuppression

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References:

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/clinical-criteria.html>.
2. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/>
3. WHO: Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) when COVID-19 disease is suspected: Interim Guidance. WHO reference number: [WHO/2019-nCoV/Clinical/2020.4](https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/WHO/2019-nCoV/Clinical/2020.4)
4. Zhou et al. Clinical course and Risk Factors for Mortality of Adult Inpatients with Covid-19 in Wuhan, China: a Retrospective Cohort Study. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30566-3/fulltext#seccesstitle180](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30566-3/fulltext#seccesstitle180).