

2019-nCoV: Screening And Triage

- All patients who come to the respective health facilities should be screened for suspected 2019-nCoV at triage.
- A special area should be set up for PUI of 2019-nCoV, to which he / she can come directly and to be assessed there.
- The PUI should be managed by a dedicated team where possible.
- **WHEN SHOULD YOU SUSPECT 2019-nCoV?**

2019-nCoV is to be suspected when a patient presents to Triage Counter with the following:

A person with fever **AND** clinical sign/symptoms suggestive of pneumonia². OR severe respiratory infection with breathlessness **AND** had history of travel to or reside in Mainland China within the last 14 days; **OR** close contact¹ with a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.

- Should a patient fulfill the description, to institute infection prevention and control measures as the following:
 - ✓ Place patients at least 1 meter away from other patients or health care workers. Clinics and Emergency Departments are to prepare an isolation area / room for patients.
 - ✓ Ensure strict hand hygiene for all clinic staffs and suspected patient.
 - ✓ Provide surgical mask to patients if not contraindicated.
 - ✓ Personal protective equipment as per recommendation should be worn at all times.
 - ✓ After the encounter, ensure proper disposal of all PPE that have been used
 - ✓ Decontamination of the isolation area and equipments used should be done.

NOTE:

It is not always possible to identify patients with 2019-nCoV early because some have mild or unusual symptoms. For this reason, it is important that health care workers apply standard precautions consistently with all patients – regardless of their diagnosis in all work practices all the time.

- A group of suspected PUI who come to any healthcare facilities in a specific vehicle (e.g. bus, van) should be contained in that vehicle until being evaluated by a dedicated team to minimize exposure to healthcare workers and other patients.