

COVID-19 CLINICAL ONE-PAGER

Created March 14, 2020

PRECAUTIONS

- Immediately isolate patients +/- neg pressure room
- **Droplet + contact** precautions for most
- Airborne precautions if airway procedures → use N95
Donning: wash→gown→mask/goggles→gloves
Doffing: gloves→gown→wash→mask/
goggles→wash

COURSE AND PRESENTATION

- Case definition: fever or resp sx + exposure w/in 14 days
- **81% of patients will have very mild illness course**
- Incubation period typically 4 days, up to 14 days
- Day ~4: common symptoms at onset:
fever (77–98%), cough (46%–82%)
fatigue (11–52%), dyspnea (3–31%)
GI symptoms (10%)
- Day ~6: dyspnea
- Day ~8: decompensation
- Day ~10: ventilatory support

HISTORY & PHYSICAL

- Inquire about goals of care, exposures/gatherings
Inquire early – patient may decompensate
- Respiratory and constitutional symptoms
- Vitals, cardio+resp exam, volume status, perfusion
Shock at admission is infreq – consider alt dx
- Sick pts have ARDS picture: fever, ↓BP, ↑HR, ↑RR,
↓O₂, dyspnea, abn breath sounds
- High risk comorbidities:
Cardiovascular or respiratory disease,
chronic organ disease, diabetes, age >60,
immunocompromised state
- Ddx: alt viral infxn, pneumonia, CHF, COPD, asthma, ect...
- Complications: cardiomyopathy, sepsis, DIC, vent related

MANAGEMENT FOR WELL PATIENTS

- Isolation 14d +/- NP swab per local guideline (~70% sens)
- Acetaminophen for fever and return precautions

WORKUP FOR UNWELL PATIENTS

- NP swab for COVID, flu, RSV but keep ddx broad
NP swab have low sens—CXR if suspicious
- CBC- expect ↓lymphocytes, ↓PLT
- Troponins- often demand ischemia – check ECG
- CRP- ↑'s w/ disease severity, consider alt dx if normal
- ↑LFTs, ↑BUN/Cr, if ill consider DIC labs
- Blood + urine cultures- only if suspected bacterial infxn
- Procal- if available & ↑ consider bacterial pneumonia
- CXR +/- lung POCUS (B-lines), CT unnecessary in most

TREATMENT

- Respiratory support is mainstay of treatment
- VERY conservative fluids- avoid worsening pulm edema
- Consider empiric abx for CAP pending investigations
- Likely no role for steroids or Tamiflu
- Antivirals investigational at some sites– consult ID
- Cardiomyopathy→ cardiogenic shock may be late feature
Echo for EF, consult cardiology early, treat CHF
Vasopressors and arrhythmics may be needed

RESPIRATORY SUPPORT OPTIONS

- Start with low flow nasal→face mask→venturi→NRB
- Avoid HiFlow, BiPAP, nebs, suctioning d/t aerosolization
Use MDI instead of nebulizers where possible
- **Intubate early**- pref no bag RSI, vent w/[ARDSnet protocol](#)
Negative pressure room with full PPE + N95
Full dose paralytic to prevent cough
Preox w/ fitted mask+viral filter+PEEP valve
Minimize bagging– if critical 2 hand seal+viral filter
Video laryngoscopy by experienced provider
Prone positioning may help refractory cases

IMAGING FINDINGS

CXR: patchy ground glass opacities



NP SWAB TECHNIQUE

- Tilt pt head slightly back, insert swab straight in, not up
- Once resistance is met, rotate swab for 10-15 seconds

SOURCES:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-guidance-management-patients.html>
- <https://emcrit.org/ibcc/covid19/>
- <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762996>

Continue to follow local guidelines and procedures, this summary of early evolving literature should not be construed as a treatment guideline or medical advice