

ALGORITHM FOR DEALING WITH SUSPECT CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) CASES – 20 MARCH 2020

1.

Patient presenting at or phoning a health facility/GP & meeting the Person Under Investigation (PUI) / Suspect Case Definition:

1. Patients should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and evaluated in a private room. Patients phoning in should be asked to contact the NICD National hotline: 0800 029 999
2. Isolate PUI (ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available)
3. Use appropriate infection control for PUI:
 - a. Adequate standard precautions for all patients
 - b. Add contact and droplet precautions for all patients
 - c. Apply airborne precautions (N95 mask) and eye protection must be used when performing aerosol-generating procedures
 - d. If available, airborne precautions can be used at all times
 - e. Limit movement of patient (e.g. use designated portable X-ray)
4. Inform the CEO and IPC manager of the health facility

2.

Keep patient at the health facility. **The suspect case(s)/ PUI's must NOT be moved to Grey's/ Manguzi/ Addington/ Ngwelezane Hospital.**

3.

Contact NICD (0828839920 or 0800111131) only if clinical advice is required. No need to seek permission from NICD to test. Collect appropriate specimens and send for testing. **Designated Isolation facilities are NOT the default testing sites for suspect cases/PUI's.** All suspected cases who meet the case definition should be notified urgently as per notifiable medical condition notification procedures.

4.

If PUI requires hospitalization, contact nearest facility with appropriate/required level of care and discuss case with the doctor for admission there. If PUI does not require hospitalization, educate/counsel & discharge home for self-quarantine.

5.

Lab. diagnosis of COVID19 confirmed?

Yes

No

5a

Manage the patient according to the NICD guidelines (for quarantine purposes) and/or relevant clinical guidelines at the GP rooms or health facility with appropriate level of care.

5b

- i) If requiring hospitalization: Contact doctor on call at the nearest designated isolation facility and await further instructions to transfer patient (confirmed cases only). **DO NOT** transfer/move the patient to the facility until the go ahead is given by the relevant authority at that facility.
- ii) If not requiring hospitalization: Patient can be self-isolated at home. **Private sector may manage their own cases.**

CRITERIA FOR PUI / SUSPECT COVID19 CASES:

Persons with acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (measured) or history of fever (subjective)] irrespective of admission status **AND**

In the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following epidemiological criteria:

•Were in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of SARS-CoV-2 infection;

OR

•Had a history of travel to areas with located transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (list of the countries will change with time – consult the NICD website)

OR

•Worked in, or attended a health care facility where patients with SARS-CoV-2 infections were being treated

OR

•Admitted with severe pneumonia of unknown aetiology

CONFIRMED COVID19 CASE: Laboratory test positive for COVID19 confirmed by NICD

GENERAL:

Whenever moving a symptomatic PUI/suspect case or a confirmed COVID19 case, the person must wear a surgical mask and keep them away from other patients/ people by 1-2 metres.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Provincial Health Ops Centre: 033 846 6000 operational 24/7

National hotline for the public: 0800 029 999 or 0800 111132 (operational 24/7)

NICD 24 hour Hotline for health care workers: 082 883 9920 or 0800 111131

KZN CDC co-ordinator: Ms. Premi Govender 033 940 2445 or 071 609 2505

KZN IPC co-ordinators: Kaloshnee Ganas 033 940 2499 or 083 666 1455

Reshma Misra 033 940 2499 or 076 199 8238

Dept. of Virology (UKZN/IALCH): 031 240 2738

Addington Hospital: 031 327 2308; **Ngwelezana Hospital:** 035 901 7000; **Grey's Hospital:** 033 897 3000; **Manguzi Hospital:** 035 592 0150

NICD contact details for assistance with sample collection and transport:

Sample Collection: Sibongile Walaza: 0113866410 or 0836574741

Sample Transport: Linda de Gouveia: 0115550327 or

Amelia Buys / Cardia Fourie: 0113866373