



## Pandemic Triage Guide – COVID-19

In most young healthy patients COVID-19 will present with fever and a cough. The course, although uncomfortable, will be benign and therefore not require EMS transport and hospitalization. Patients with mild symptoms may be treated at home with hydration, antipyretics and rest and only be transported to the hospital should their symptoms worsen.

The patients at greatest risk are older and those with co-morbid conditions. During the pandemic period, patients with fever, cough and/or shortness of breath should be assessed according to two variables:

1. Vital Signs:

Regardless of age, if any of the following are present the patient should be transported to the hospital.

- a. Respirations > 30/min
- b. Pulse Ox. < 90 %
- c. Systolic BP < 90 mm Hg.
- d. Pulse > 125/min.
- e. Altered mental status

2. High Risk Profile:

Patients with a history of fever, cough and/or shortness of breath who meet either of the following criteria should be strongly encouraged to be transported to the hospital.

- a. Age  $\geq$  60 years
- b. Co-morbid conditions: (CV disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory illness, hypertension, current cancer)

If the patient chooses to stay at home, provide home health care instructions and ensure contact ability with the patient's health care provider.