

Clinical Management Algorithm for Acute Respiratory Diseases (ARD)

Includes COVID-Like Illness (aCLI, ARI, ILI, Pneumonia), Probable & Confirmed COVID-19

Refer to - Acute Respiratory Disease (ARD) Management Policy Case Definitions

Triage (including SpO₂) and assess Illness Severity

- **Mild** (mild symptoms, no supplemental oxygen) / Recovering / Asymptomatic
- **Moderate** (oxygen saturation <92%, requiring oxygen to maintain saturation ≥89%)
- **Severe** (dyspnea, hypoxia, or >50% lung involvement on imaging)
- **Critical** (respiratory failure, shock, multi-organ system dysfunction)

Assess possible Exposure history to determine COVID Probability

Initiate Treatment (per ECDC, CDC, and NIH Guidelines)

Investigations, Testing & Alternative Diagnoses

Consider tests for Legionella, Strep & Influenza
Conduct SARS-CoV-2 PCR Testing* for all cases meeting case definition

Consider Risks for Severe Illness and Illness severity to determine if hospitalization is indicated

Isolate suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients for a minimum of 10 days since onset of first symptoms.

Refer to ECDC, CDC, & NIH Clinical Management Guidelines for patients

Hospitalized patients

For probable & confirmed COVID-19 patients:

- Consider baseline tests: (CBC, U&E, LFT's, CXR) and D-dimer
- Consider referral of hospitalized cases

Non Hospitalized patients

- Follow up regularly to assess Symptoms, Temperature and Pulse Oximetry

Identification of Close Contacts

Consider risks & identify Close Contacts per CDC and ECDC Criteria

Follow up daily:

- Temperature & SpO₂ Check
- Symptoms Check

Any Fever or Symptoms?

Maintain quarantine for full 14 days

Test all close contacts for SARS-CoV-2, discontinue quarantine after 14 days

CDC Criteria for Discontinuation of Isolation

All patients (hospitalized & non-hospitalized) with mild to moderate illness who are not severely immunocompromised:

- At least **10 days**¹ have passed since symptoms² appeared, **AND**
- At least **24 hours** have passed since last fever without use of fever-reducing medications, **AND**
- Symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) have improved.

¹For patients with severe to critical illness or who are severely immunocompromised, at least **20 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.

²Persons infected with SARS-CoV-2 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of first positive PCR test.