The Emergency Department Evaluation and Management of Patients Under Investigation for COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease)

Isolate and Prevent Transmission:
Mask patient and move to a negative pressure airborne isolation room. If unavailable, move to private room with door closed. Health care personnel should use contact and airborne precautions and eye protection (i.e. gowns, gloves, N95 respirator, PAPR and goggles or face shield).

Inform:
Immediately notify facility’s infection prevention department and local public health department.

Further evaluation and management:
a. Complete history and physical examination. Decision to test for COVID-19 must be made in coordination with health department.
b. Testing for other respiratory pathogens should not delay specimen shipping if testing for COVID-19 is indicated.
c. Perform routine interventions (e.g. placement of peripheral IV) as indicated by clinical status.

Questions? Contact the infection prevention department at your facility.

February 28, 2020