2020-2021 ED COVID-19/Flu Testing Algorithm

Disclaimer: This algorithm serves as a general framework to approach COVID-19 and Flu Testing, clinical judgement takes precedence

Child present with concerns for COVID-19 or Flu

Positive COVID PCR/Antigen Test in last 3 months

Asymptomatic

If 3 days of fever, consider MIS-C Pathway, off testing algorithm

Symptomatic

Patient likely needs admission

Defer to inpatient

Do NOT re-test, consider MIS-C Pathway or Flu Algorithm

NO

Asymptomatic for COVID-19 or Flu: NO TEST

• Quarantine guidance on discharge
• Contact with COVID = quarantine for 14 days from last date of exposure
• No contact with COVID = no quarantine necessary

Will test change clinical management

Will change ability to return to work or school

Test

YES

COVID Positive

Isolate for 10 days (20 days if immunocompromised), monitor symptoms, return to work or school when afebrile and improving symptoms without suppressive medications for 24 hours

COVID Negative

Isolate until afebrile and improving symptoms without suppressive medications for 24 hours

Symptomatic

NO

Unsure:

NO

YES

Do NOT test, consider Flu Algorithm or MIS-C Pathway

COVID Positive

Test, if supply available

YES

COVID Negative

Isolate for 10 days, return precautions for worsening symptoms

Contact with COVID = isolate 10 days (20 days if immunocompromised) from symptom onset, 24 hours afebrile and improving symptoms

NO contact with COVID = isolate until 24 hours afebrile and improving symptoms (same for immunocompromised)

Symptoms:

• Fever >100.4F
• Cough
• Sore throat
• Rhinorrhea
• Myalgia
• Headache
• Fatigue
• Vomiting
• Diarrhea

High Risk Criteria:

• Asthma
• Chronic lung disease
• Sickle cell
• Diabetes
• Neurologic condition with potential for airway compromise
• Immunosuppressed population (Cardiac, GI, Renal, Transplant, Oncology, Rheumatology)

Relevant Guidelines:

• MIS-C Pathway
• Flu Algorithm

Last Updated: September 22, 2020

Created By: Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Emergency Medicine and Infection Prevention Medical Leadership

Source: CDC/Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta