



March 25, 2020

All SIREMS Personnel:

I am writing to update and streamline the pre-hospital COVID-19 screening process. I also want to take this opportunity to clarify the reasoning for EMS screening versus hospital screening for suspected COVID-19.

The below image is the CDC screening tool that EMS has been using and will continue to use. However, the travel question and effected countries/areas are constantly changing. We recommend asking if the patient has traveled outside of Southern Illinois in the last 14 days instead of asking about travel in and out of approximately 38 countries and 19 states.

| Clinical Features | & | Epidemiologic Risk |
|---|-----|--|
| Fever ¹ or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath) | AND | Any person, including healthcare workers ² , who has had close contact ³ with a laboratory-confirmed ⁴ COVID-19 patient within 14 days of symptom onset |
| Fever ¹ and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough or shortness of breath) requiring hospitalization | AND | A history of travel from affected geographic areas ⁵ (see below) within 14 days of symptom onset |

Symptomatic patient AND had contact with person tested or confirmed COVID-19 **OR*

**Symptomatic patient AND has traveled outside of Southern Illinois in the last 14 days*

Also, there is a difference between the EMS screening and the hospital screening. EMS is screening to determine if PPE use is needed, while the hospital screening is used to determine the need for COVID-19 testing and future treatment needs.

If you have any questions during treatment or transport, contact Medical Control. Any non-emergent questions should be directed to our EMS Office.

Regards,

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