



Jackson County Health Department

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Creating Healthy Communities



Assessment for Potential 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) For First Responders

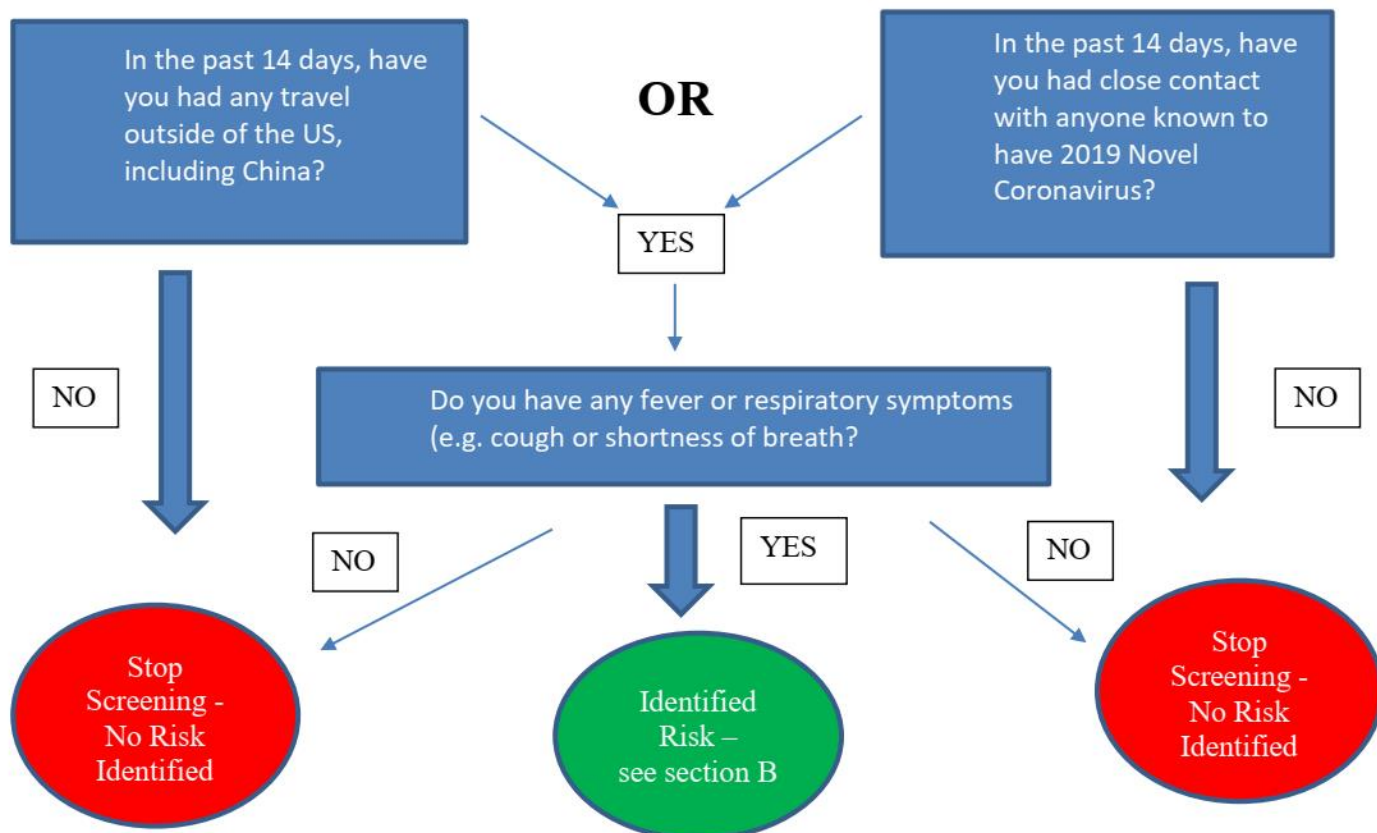
Purpose:

Jackson County Health Department recommendations for central dispatch and/or on-scene screening for COVID-19 and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Screening Recommendations:

- 1.) **Central Dispatch Assessment:** Question all callers for risk factors of COVID-19 and travel history utilizing screening questions below. Advise First Responders of any identified risk.
- 2.) **On-Screen Assessment:** Remain a minimum of 6 feet from the patient and assess for risk factors utilizing screening questions below.

Screening Question Algorithm:



Section B – Steps After Risk Has Been Identified

- 1.) Once a travel history risk or respiratory symptoms have been identified, First Responders should put on personal protective equipment (PPE) that would be utilized for standard, contact and airborne precautions. This PPE includes:
 - A single pair of disposable patient examination gloves. Change gloves if they become torn or heavily contaminated,
 - Disposable isolation gown,
 - Respiratory protection (i.e., N-95 or higher-level respirator), and
 - Eye protection (i.e., goggles or disposable face shield that fully covers the front and sides of the face).
- 2.) Inform receiving hospital of COVID-19 risk prior to arrival, so they can begin preparations for prevention of transmission.
- 3.) Additional recommendations include:
 - Drivers, if they provide direct patient care (e.g., moving patients onto stretchers), should wear all recommended PPE. After completing patient care and before entering an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of PPE and perform hand hygiene to avoid soiling the compartment.
 - If the transport vehicle does **not** have an isolated driver's compartment, the driver should remove the face shield or goggles, gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene. A respirator should continue to be used during transport.
 - All personnel should avoid touching their face while working.
 - On arrival, after the patient is released to the facility, First Responders should remove and discard PPE and perform hand hygiene. Used PPE should be discarded in accordance with routine procedures
 - Other Standard Precautions (e.g., injection safety, hand hygiene) can be found in the guideline titled [Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission of Infectious Agents in Healthcare Settings](#).