## Background

## Current knowledge on how COVID-19 spreads is based on what is known about early COVID-19 cases and what is known about similar coronaviruses. Most often, spread from person-to-person happens during close exposure to a person infected with COVID-19. Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, like how influenza viruses and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It is unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

# **Symptoms**

1. For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include:
   1. Fever
   2. Cough
   3. Shortness of breath
   4. Malaise and fatigue
   5. Muscle and body aches
   6. Loss of taste and smell
   7. Headaches
   8. Nausea/Vomiting and diarrhea
   9. Sore throat has also been reported in some patients early in the clinical course

# **Procedure**

1. Patient Risk Assessment will be completed on each patient through our electronic medical records system. A Patient Risk Assessment will begin at time of admission and continue throughout the patient’s care.
2. Contact and airborne precautions must be observed. All persons entering the patient home who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19, but does not require hospitalization should wear:
   1. Gloves and Gown (fluid resistant or impermeable)
   2. Goggles (if using a facemask without eye protection)
   3. N95 respiratory facemask
3. Ensure the infected patient is wearing a mask during the visit.
4. Hand Hygiene will be performed prior to providing patient care:
   1. Hands must be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to donning gloves and when gloves are removed; or
   2. Hands must be sanitized with 60% and above alcohol-based hand sanitizer prior to donning gloves and when gloves are removed and may be used in between glove changes.
5. To find local health departments directory information go to: <https://www.naccho.org/membership/lhd-directory>
   1. Ohio after hours/on call health department and infectious disease staff: (614) 995-5599
   2. The Ohio Department of Health created a call center that is open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to answer questions regarding COVID-19, the number is 1-833-427-5634.
6. In consultation with state or local health department staff, the clinical staff member should assess whether the residential setting is appropriate for home care. Considerations for care at home include whether:
   1. The patient is stable enough to receive care at home.
   2. Appropriate caregivers are available at home.
   3. There is a separate room where the patient can recover without sharing immediate space with others if exposed to or COVID-19 positive.
   4. Resources for access to food and other necessities are available.
   5. The patient and other household members have access to appropriate, recommended personal protective equipment (at a minimum, gloves and facemask) and are capable of adhering to precautions recommended as part of home care or isolation (e.g., respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, hand hygiene).
7. Education will be provided to patients and involved caregivers on COVID-19 during the course of their care.
8. Remind patients that the CDC recommends individuals and families to follow the everyday preventive measures of:
   1. Voluntary Home Isolation: Stay home when you are sick with respiratory disease symptoms.
   2. Respiratory Etiquette: Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw it in the trash can; masking is recommended when in close proximity to others.
   3. Hand Hygiene: Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
   4. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
   5. Environmental Health Action: Routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
      1. Disinfection should remain in contact with the surface per product label instructions prior to wiping done surface.
   6. Patients with COVID-19 who are identified by public health officials as requiring community-based care and isolation should be advised to limit interaction with pets and other animals including direct contact petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. Service animals should be permitted to remain with their handlers.