



CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Outpatient with Respiratory Symptoms

A. EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 17, 2023

B. PURPOSE:

To provide guidance on the process to be followed when seeing a patient who is experiencing respiratory symptoms in the outpatient clinics and Urgent Care settings.

C. GUIDELINE:

Proper infection control precautions must be maintained when providing care in an outpatient setting for patients who are experiencing respiratory symptoms.

D. SCOPE:

- a. This guideline applies only to outpatient clinics, Urgent Cares, blood draw stations and radiology.
- b. The Cancer Center and open area Infusion Center are not included in this guideline.

E. DEFINITIONS:

None

F. MATERIAL(S) NEEDED:

- Surgical procedure masks
- Eye protection
- N95 mask

G. PROCEDURE:

1. When a patient with respiratory symptoms calls for an appointment to be seen in an outpatient UConn Health clinic, or calls or walks into an Urgent Care, blood draw station or radiology, at the time of scheduling or walk in, the patient is told they will be required to wear a mask for their appointment and during the visit.
2. Upon check in, the provider and staff are informed that the patient is here and is experiencing respiratory symptoms as a chief complaint.
3. If an exam room is available, the patient may be escorted directly to the open room. In shared waiting rooms, the symptomatic patient should be segregated, when possible, from other patients.
4. Providers and staff who are with the patient in a room with the door closed should wear an N95 mask and eye protection.

H. ATTACHMENTS:

None

I. REFERENCES:

CDC at [https:// www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/resphygiene.htm)

J. SEARCH WORDS:

Respiratory symptoms

K. ENFORCEMENT:

Violations of this guideline may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, the University of Connecticut Student Code, other applicable University Policies, or as outlined in any procedures document related to this guideline.

L. STAKEHOLDER APPROVALS:

On File

M. COMMITTEE APPROVALS:

COVID Policy Committee

N. FINAL APPROVAL :

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>Bruce T. Liang, MD (Signed)</u> Bruce T. Liang, MD Interim Chief Executive Officer & EVP for Health Affairs Dean, School of Medicine | <u>03/25/2023</u> Date |
| 2. <u>Anne Horbatuck (Signed)</u> Anne D. Horbatuck, RN, BSN, MBA Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair | <u>03/17/2023</u> Date |
| 3. <u>Scott Allen, MD (Signed)</u> Scott Allen, MD Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair | <u>03/21/2023</u> Date |
| 4. <u>Caryl Ryan (Signed)</u> Caryl Ryan, MS, BSN, RN Chief Operating Officer, JDH VP Quality and Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer | <u>03/20/2023</u> Date |

O. REVISION HISTORY :

Date Issued: 03/17/2023