At entry to hospital: Segregate possible COVID-19 and non COVID-19 patients into two Parallel Streams

Criteria for COVID-19 parallel stream:

- New onset of acute respiratory infection (including any one of fever, cough or shortness of breath);
- Influenza-like illness; or hypoxic respiratory failure in a previously healthy person
- OR
- Acute deterioration of existing respiratory disease requiring hospital assessment
- OR
- Temperature above 38°C or chills in the absence of reasonable evidence of infection at a non-respiratory site
- OR
- Sudden onset of anosmia¹, ageusia² or dysgeusia³

Clinical judgement should be applied in application of these criteria to determine who requires testing.

Clinicians should be alert to the possibility of atypical (including non-respiratory) presentations in older patients (may present with lethargy, confusion, loss of appetite, unexplained change in baseline condition), younger patients and in those who are immunocompromised.

¹ Loss of sense of smell; ² Loss of sense of taste; ³ Distortion of sense of taste

Patients should wear a surgical mask, if tolerated.

Assess and rapidly differentiate into discharge to Home/Community management versus need for Acute Hospital Management

If patient is well and does not need hospital admission:

- If symptomatic as detailed in Telephone assessment and testing pathway for patients who phone general practice and healthcare settings other than receiving hospitals, ask patient to return home and contact GP to arrange testing. If the patient does not have a GP, they will be facilitated, as detailed here. Do not use 999 OR 112.
- The patient may be driven home by a person who has already had significant exposure, who is aware of the risks and who is willing to drive them. If patient had driven themselves, they may drive home if feeling well enough to drive.
- Patients should be advised to remain in self-isolation pending test and test result. Refer to the Patient information sheet for self-isolation.
- The whole population is being asked to stay at home, where possible. Additional restrictions for household contacts are outlined in the information leaflet Advice for people who share a home with someone who has symptoms of Coronavirus.

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Assessment and testing pathway for use in a HOSPITAL SETTING

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Assessment and testing pathway for use in a HOSPITAL SETTING

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