**COVID-19 Risk Assessment for Use by Ambulance Services when PRIMARY POINT of Contact**

**CLINICAL CRITERIA**

1. A patient with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath) **AND** with no other aetiology that fully explains the clinical presentation; **OR**
2. A patient with any acute respiratory illness **AND** having been in close contact\(^1\) with a confirmed or probable\(^2\) COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to onset of symptoms; **OR**
3. Sudden onset of anosmia\(^3\), ageusia\(^4\) or dysgeusia\(^5\)

Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics should be alert to the possibility of atypical (including non-respiratory) presentations in older patients, younger patients and in those who are immunocompromised.

\(^{1}\) Close contact: <2 metres face-to-face contact for greater than 15 minutes

\(^{2}\) Probable case: A suspected case for whom testing for virus causing COVID-19 is inconclusive (according to the test results reported by the laboratory)

\(^{3}\) Loss of sense of smell; \(^{4}\) Loss of sense of taste; \(^{5}\) Distortion of sense of taste

**INITIAL ACTIONS**

1. **ISOLATE PATIENT**
2. Implement **STANDARD CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS** and explain the **NOW** and **NEXT** to the patient
3. **SURGICAL MASK** for patients with respiratory symptoms (if tolerated)

If patient is NOT deemed well enough to remain at home, following risk assessment

**TRANSPORT** patient to nearest **RECEIVING HOSPITAL** AND INFORM the **RECEIVING TEAM** in ADVANCE of arrival

If patient is deemed well enough to remain at home, following risk assessment

**Refer to NAS/DFB relevant procedure on COVID-19 non-conveyance**

**ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IF ATTENDING PATIENT ON AIRCRAFT**

**AMBULANCE PERSONNEL** should:

A. In addition to Standard Precautions initiate **CONTACT & DROPLET PRECAUTIONS** before entering.
B. **DISTRIBUTE** and **COLLECT PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT TRACING CARDS** for (i) Passengers in close contact with a possible case (ii) crew serving the person or that section.
C. **FORWARD** these **PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT TRACING CARDS** directly to local **PUBLIC HEALTH** Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
D. **REQUEST CABIN CREW** to: (i) Broadcast the Travel Health Alert Announcement (ii) Distribute and collect **PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT TRACING CARDS** from ALL OTHER passengers and crew (iii) Distribute a copy of the Travel Health Alert Announcement leaflet to all passenger and crew (iv) Send completed **PUBLIC HEALTH CONTACT TRACING CARDS** to the local Public Health MOH
E. **ALL WELL PASSENGERS** should then be allowed to **DISEMBARK**, using the nearest exit.