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KITSAP COUNTY EMS & TRAUMA CARE COUNCIL

Driving excellence in pre-hospital emergency medical care throughout Kitsap County and Washington State.

March 10, 2020

To: All Kitsap County EMS Agencies

From: Joe Hoffman, M.D., Medical Program Director

Re: Suspected COVID-19 Patients

Beginning today, I recommended using the DOH Outpatient Respiratory Assessment tool as a quantitative assessment of risk.

I also recommended that NOT every patient needs to be transported. This is line with CDC and DOH guidelines. Minor patients (from any etiology) can shelter and treat in place AND contact their PCP.

Specifically, I recommended:

1. Normal vital signs (excluding fever)
2. Normal mental status and mobility at baseline
3. Taking PO fluids
4. Making urine
5. Minimal to no significant co-morbidities

Use the Sepsis Score card (from new protocols) and DOH assessment tool for a quantitative assessment. If a crew has the FIVE things above, a low sepsis score and negative DOH assessment tool, then DO NOT transport the patient. Document ALL the above in the EHR. Furthermore, a patient who may screen at risk for COVID on the DOH assessment tool but who has minimal symptoms, can stay in self-quarantine and public health can test them at home. Base Station contact for a “non-transport” order is encouraged.

In this current public health emergency, a fever, cough and a desire to get a test DOES NOT constitute an emergency and a transport.

Resources can be found on the Kitsap County EMS & TCC website. Please contact the Kitsap EMS office with any questions.

Joseph Hoffman, M.D.
EMS Medical Program Director
Kitsap County