



COVID-19 Best Practice TRANSPORT GUIDELINES

(SHARED WITH PERMISSION OF NORFOLK FIRE-RESCUE)

GOAL

Provide patients informed advice on their need (or lack of need) for transport to a hospital based on the current COVID-19 outbreak. These guidelines are being implemented for the safety of the patient, healthcare centers, and EMS providers.

Key Points:

- These guidelines only apply to patients that meet COVID-19 criteria and are seeking assistance for those symptoms.
- The “Uncertain” path refers to **provider** uncertainty. If the **patient** is uncertain—Transport.
- **DO NOT** tell patient we will not take them to the hospital. This is a recommendation for self-care at home if the patient meets the guidelines.
- **DO NOT** tell the patient how the hospital will treat their current symptoms.
- **DO NOT** tell the patient whether the hospital will or won't test them for COVID-19.
- If asked, **DO** tell the patient we cannot guarantee the hospital will test them for COVID-19.
- This is an informed agreement between our providers and the patient based on all factors.

If a patient is agreeable to self-care at home:

- Discuss the approved *CDC What to Do if You are Sick with COVID-19* document.
- **DO NOT** simply provide the document.
- Point out the local information numbers for the Virginia Department of Health.
- Stress that they can call us back if symptoms worsen or consult their doctor.
- Allow opportunity for additional questions and confirm their level of comfort with self-care instructions.

Documentation:

- Complete report using **Treated/No Transport (Per Protocol)** run disposition.
- Select **YES** for COVID criteria power field question in ePCR system.
- Complete all mandatory fields and information related to this run disposition.
- Complete thorough narrative detailing the adherence to these guidelines and all previous direction regarding COVID-19 patient documentation. (e.g. PPE, etc.)
- **The AIC MUST sign the report.** This signature line attests that these guidelines were implemented as described.

