

# SFVAMC COVID-19 + Influenza Protocol for Symptomatic Outpatients & Anticipated ER Discharges (includes face-to-face, TLC, and video visits)\*

Advise on home isolation<sup>7</sup>  
For patients with influenza-like illness, consider influenza testing only if results will change management (i.e., symptoms for ≤ 48 hours, high risk patient)

**Acute symptoms featuring any one of the following<sup>1</sup>:**

- Fever (subjective or objective > 100°F)
- New shortness of breath, new cough, or new difficulty breathing

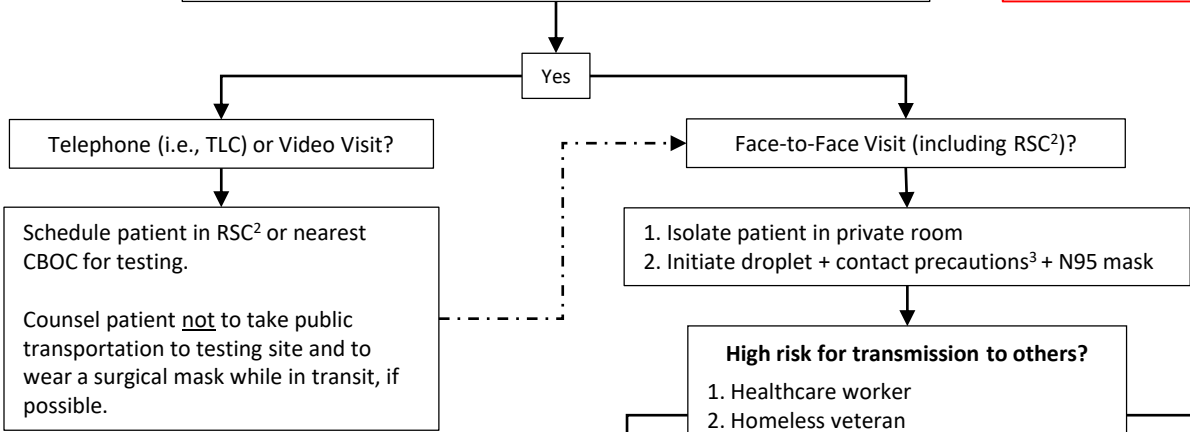
**OR Acute symptoms featuring any two of the following (without fever):**

- Sore throat, myalgia, conjunctivitis
- New onset nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Sudden onset loss of taste or smell

**OR Acute symptoms but unable to obtain history or collateral**

Cepheid COVID-19 testing should only be ordered under the following circumstances:

1. Inpatient admission
2. Emergent surgical procedure (≤ 24 hrs)
3. For homeless veterans, healthcare workers, and patients awaiting discharge to high risk outpatient settings<sup>4</sup>, including hemodialysis (call outpatient COVID-19 attending for approval: 415-607-1592)



<sup>1</sup> Excludes symptoms attributable to acute or chronic bronchitis, acute sinusitis, other ENT infections  
<sup>2</sup> RSC = ER-Respiratory Screening Clinic  
<sup>3</sup> Surgical mask + eye protection + gown/gloves for providers  
<sup>4</sup> Nursing home, long-term care facility, board & care, shelter, prison, jail  
<sup>5</sup> Wear N95 plus eye protection or PAPR plus gown/gloves  
<sup>6</sup> For homeless or marginally housed patients, discuss discharge options with SW: Jon Johnson (cell 415-725-4527)  
<sup>7</sup> Self-quarantine at home until 24 hours have passed since last fever (without use of fever-reducing medications), until respiratory symptoms have improved, and:  
**If COVID (+):** until ≥ 10 days have passed since symptom onset. Also advise to remain off hospital campus for 20 days from symptom onset.  
**If COVID (-) or not tested:** until ≥ 7 days have passed since symptom onset. If symptoms not improving after 7 days, recommend clinical evaluation and repeat COVID testing.