

# Emerging and Travel-Related Infectious Disease Screening Tool

(Facilities/Providers are encouraged to make adaptations necessary to meet their needs)

**Front desk/Registration staff**

**Observe and/or Ask:**  
Does the patient have respiratory symptoms: sneezing, watery or red eyes, runny nose, (new) cough?

No

Yes

Have patient sit in general waiting area.

**Concern:** Influenza or other respiratory virus

**Action:**

- Provide patient with face mask and have them sit ≥ 3 ft. away from others.
- Expedite transfer from common area to consulting room.

**Clinician(s)**

**Ask:** Did patient travel outside the continental U.S. during the past month? OR Anytime during pregnancy (if pregnant, post-partum, infant)?  
Also inquire about unusual exposure (such as to sick birds, wildlife or sick returned travelers) in U.S. or abroad.

Yes

No

**Ask: Does patient have any combination of these symptoms?:**

- |                                     |   |                        |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| • Fever                             | • Difficulty breathing/ Shortness of breath | • Joint pain           |
| • Severe headache or muscle pain    | • Sore throat or runny nose                 | • Cough                |
| • Diarrhea/Vomiting/ Abdominal pain | • Conjunctivitis                            | • Unexplained bleeding |
| • Weakness/ (new) fatigue           | • Rash                                      |                        |

Yes

No

**Concern: Need to rule out highly contagious emerging infection. Call DPH *immediately* (24/7) to report at 888-295-5156. Be ready to provide:**

- Countries to which patient traveled
- Date/approximate dates of travel and return
- Patient name and date of birth
- Patient contact (phone, address)
- Symptoms patient is having
- Pregnancy/post-partum status

DPH states low risk

**Pregnant, post-partum or infant?**

No

Yes

**Call DPH as soon as possible at 888-295-5156 to report (if not already done)**

DPH guidance pending OR DPH states high risk

- Evaluate patient as appropriate based on presenting complaints.
- Use standard precautions and good hand hygiene with all patients.
- For patients with respiratory symptoms, examining clinicians should use masks, eye covers, and gloves as appropriate.
- NOTE: some travel related illnesses have incubation period > 1 month. If travel more than four weeks ago and consistent symptoms, consider evaluating for travel-related illness.

**What to expect from DPH:**

- DPH will provide guidance as to whether country to which patient travelled is one of concern.
- DPH will also arrange for patient transport, *if needed*. For those with concerning travel, do not call 911 unless patient needs emergency care and cannot wait for 30-45 minutes to get such care.
- DPH will arrange for laboratory testing to identify emerging infections of concern as appropriate

**DPH guidance pending or (per DPH) patient is high infection transmission risk. Do the following:**

1. Move patient to a room with a door, separate from others.
2. Minimize the number of staff who interact with patient to the lowest number that can safely care for the patient.
3. Ensure that room has a phone so staff and patient can interact back and forth while minimizing close face-to-face time.
4. Staff caring for patient are to use PPE (at the minimum impervious gown, double gloves, face mask and eye cover).
5. If room does not have a private bathroom, provide a portable bedside commode.
6. Practice safe PPE removal and good hand hygiene at all times.