Evaluating Symptomatic Outpatients

All symptomatic patients should be tested and remain in strict isolation until tests return.

SYMPTOMS	ACTION
 MILD SpO2 > 95% and mild symptoms in low-risk patient 	 Virtual visit Complete COVID-19 triage Order COVID-19 PCR
MODERATE SpO2 90 – 95% or dyspnea limiting ADLs high-risk* patient with SpO2 90 – 97% or any dyspnea	 In-person evaluation and testing in isolation-equipped outpatient clinic
SEVERE • SpO2 < 90% • high-risk* patient with SpO2 < 95%, severe dysnea, AMS, orthostasis, chest pain	Send to the Emergency Department

COVID Hotline

Table 1. Risk Factors for Severe Covid-19.*

Older age

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Cardiovascular disease (e.g., heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathy)

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Obesity (body-mass index, ≥30)

Sickle cell disease

Chronic kidney disease

Immunocompromised state from solid-organ transplantation

Cancer

* Data are adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).²⁵ Of note, there has been a disproportionate burden of Covid-19 on racial and ethnic minorities and the poor. Studies indicate that the risk of severe disease increases with age. Male sex is not currently included on the CDC list of risk factors but has been noted in some reports to be associated with severe disease. Additional conditions that may confer an increased risk but for which the data are unclear include asthma (moderate to severe), cerebrovascular diseases, cystic fibrosis, hypertension, other immunocompromised states or use of immunosuppressive therapy, neurologic conditions such as dementia, liver disease, pregnancy, pulmonary fibrosis, smoking, thalassemia, and type 1 diabetes mellitus. The body-mass index is the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters.