

Document Code:	DPOTMH-C-24-P04	
Effective Date:	08-01-2022	
Document Type:	Policy	
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Department/Section:	Infection Prevention and Control Unit	
Document Title:	tle: EMERGING AND RE-EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND COVI 19 PRE-SCREENING	

PURPOSE:

To provide early detection strategies to prevent or limit infection transmission in health-care setting during COVID-19 occurrences or outbreak of another emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

LEVEL:

All employees

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Triage- the sorting out and classification of patients or casualties to determine priority of need and proper place of treatment. During infectious disease outbreaks, triage is particularly important to separate patients likely to be infected with the pathogen of concern

COVID-19- is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic affecting many countries globally

Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (EREIDs)- are serious public health threats globally. One that either has appeared and affected a population for the first time, or has existed previously but is rapidly spreading, either in terms of the number of people getting infected, or to new geographical areas.

POLICY:

 DPOTMH shall adapt a clinical triage including early recognition and immediate placement of patients in separate area from other patients.



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- All Healthcare workers shall adhere to the application of STANDARD PRECAUTION for all patients and strict compliance of infection prevention and control measures.
- 3. DPOTMH shall implement empiric additional precaution for suspected, probable and confirmed EREID cases.
- 4. DPOTMH shall abide with the directives from the Department of Health (DOH) circulars, advisories, and other related statutory requirements and laws applicable.
- 5. Hand Hygiene must be strictly implemented. Wearing of gloves is not a replacement for hand hygiene. The Triage must be equipped with alcohol based dispensers, infrared thermometers or thermal scanner.
- All healthcare workers assigned and manning the triage must strictly observe the correct donning and doffing sequence of PPE. All PPE must be disposed accordingly after use.
- 7. All patients must wear surgical face mask if with respiratory symptoms. If the patient has no face mask, the EREID/ MAB Triage must provide for the patient.
- 8. The house keeping personnel must disinfect the area appropriately with the hospital grade disinfectant and dispose the waste bins according to the house keeping timing or as necessary.
- All equipment used in assisting patients, clients and triage must be disinfected every after use with the approved hospital grade disinfectant before using on another patient.

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DOCUMENTATION:

Revised Policy

DISSEMINATION:

- 1. Hospital Communicator
- 2. Policies and Procedure Manual
- 3. WMM

REFERENCE:

- Healthcare Workers. (2020b, February 11). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/sop-triage-prevent-transmission.html
- 2. World Health Organization. (2021, September 21). *Coronavirus disease* (COVID-19). WHO. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
- 3. World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia. (2014). A brief guide to emerging infectious diseases and zoonoses. WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia. https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/204722

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PURPOSE:

To provide early detection strategies to prevent or limit infection transmission in health-care setting during COVID-19 occurrences or outbreak of another emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

SCOPE:

Applies to all Infection Prevention and Control Unit staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital.

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

EREID Triage Nurse/ MAB Triage Nurse, Guard on Duty, CRO

GENERAL GUIDELINES:

- 1. All patients must passed by the EREID/MAB Triage for proper disposition.
- 2. Standard precautions must be observed while assessing patients.
- 3. Healthcare workers manning the EREID and MAB Triage must wear the appropriate PPE while assessing the patients and clients. The correct donning and doffing shall be observed.
- 4. The EREID/MAB Triage must be equipped of alcohol based dispensers, infrared thermometers or thermal scanner must be readily available.
- 5. All patients must wear surgical face mask if with respiratory symptoms, if the patient has no face mask, the EREID/ MAB Triage must provide for the patient.
- 6. Hand hygiene must be strictly observed.
- 7. The house keeping personnel must disinfect the area appropriately with the hospital grade disinfectant.



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PROCEDURE:

A. MAIN HOSPITAL PROCESS FLOW

- All patients for admission, clients, watchers shall be directed to the EREID triage for assessment. (located outside ER entrance).
- 2. Attending Physicians and Residents may pass through the hospital's main entrance provided that ID shall be worn at all times.
- 3. EREID designated Triage nurse shall take the temperature and lets the patient, client, and watcher fill-out initial assessment tool. Patients coming from an ambulance, stretcher, or wheelchair shall be prioritized.
- 4. CRO shall facilitate smooth and systematic flow of clients in waiting making sure 1-2 meter gap is observed.
- 5. Patients, clients, and watchers exhibiting signs and symptoms such as cough, colds, sore throat and other respiratory symptoms or diarrhea with fever or SARI (Severe Acute Respiratory Infection) or muscle pain and/or loss of smell or taste shall be directed to:
 - i. If MILD: OPD Extension (1000H-1800H) or EREID tent (1800H-1000H) for check – up and consultation. If weather is not suitable (e.g. raining, storms), OPD Extension can accommodate 24 hours.
 - ii. If MODERATE to SEVERE: Respiratory wing / SARI wing for admission.
- Patients not exhibiting the signs and symptoms stated above shall be directed to the main ER or OPD complex for admission or consult.
- Watchers, clients not exhibiting signs and symptoms shall be stamped and may proceed to the main hospital entrance.
- Patients, clients, and watchers with mild symptoms will be referred to the DEM consultants for check-up and disposition.



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B. EAST ENTRANCE

- 1. Only DPOTMH's employees and doctors can enter using this entrance.
- 2. Guard on duty shall take temperature of each employee going inside the hospital.
- 3. Guard on duty shall check the company IDs and makes sure it is worn.

C. MEDICAL ARTS BUILDING (MAB) PROCESS FLOW

- 1. All patients and watcher for consultation with or without appointment shall be directed to the MAB triage table.
- 2. CRO shall facilitate smooth and systematic flow of clients in waiting making sure 1-2 meter gap is observed.
- MAB Triage nurse shall take the temperature and assess for signs and symptoms indicative of COVID-19.
 - i. if without symptoms, may enter MAB on scheduled time
 - ii. if with symptoms:
 - A. MILD: send patient to OPD extension / EREID TENT
 - B. MODERATE TO SEVERE: send patient to ER SARI / Respiratory wing
- 4. Patients without signs and symptoms and no scheduled appointment, MAB triage nurse shall call Attending Physician's secretary for disposition.

REFERENCE:

- 1. Healthcare Workers. (2020b, February 11). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/non-us-settings/sop-triage-prevent-transmission.html
- 2. World Health Organization. (2021, September 21). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). WHO. https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
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KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
MAIN HOSPITAL	
1. Directs all patients for admission, clients, watchers to the EREID triage for assessment.	Security Personnel/ Client Relations Officer
2. Takes the temperature and lets the patient, client, and watcher fill-out initial assessment tool. Patients coming from an ambulance, stretcher, or wheelchair shall be prioritized.	EREID Triage Nurse
3. Facilitates smooth and systematic flow of clients in waiting making sure 1-2 meter gap is observed.	Security Personnel/ Client Relations Officer
4. Directs patients, clients, and watchers exhibiting signs and symptoms such as cough, colds, sore throat and other respiratory symptoms or diarrhea with fever or SARI to OPD Extension or EREID Tent if mild and SARI Wing for admission if moderate to severe.	EREID Triage Nurse
5. Directs patients not exhibiting the signs and symptoms to the main ER or OPD complex for admission or consult.	
6. Stamps watchers, clients not exhibiting signs and symptoms and may proceed to the main hospital entrance.	Security Guard



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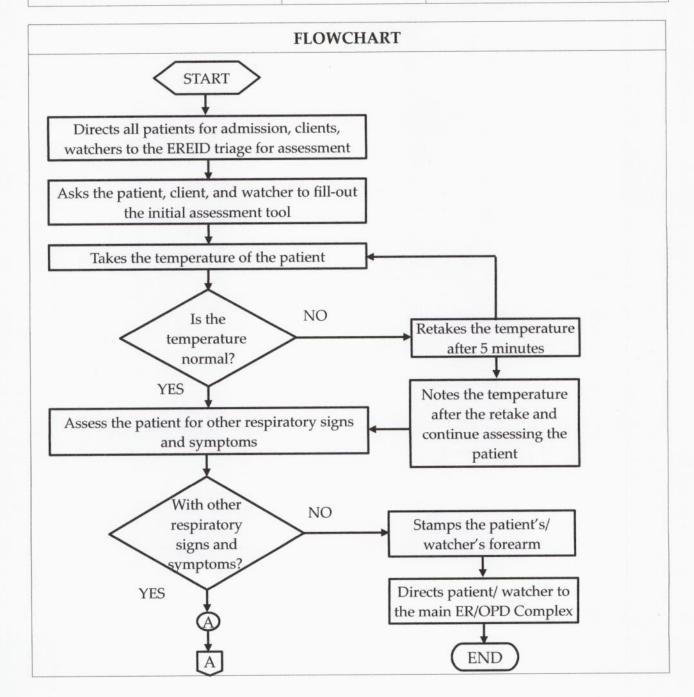
KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	
MAB MAIN ENTRANCE		
1. Directs all patients and watcher for consultation with or without appointment to the MAB triage table.	Security Personnel/ Client Relations Officer	
2. Facilitates smooth and systematic flow of clients in waiting making sure 1-2 meter gap is observed.	Security Personnel/ Client Relations Officer	
3. Directs patients, clients, and watchers exhibiting signs and symptoms such as cough, colds, sore throat and other respiratory symptoms or diarrhea with fever or SARI to OPD Extension or EREID Tent if mild and SARI Wing for admission if moderate to severe.	MAB Triage Nurse	

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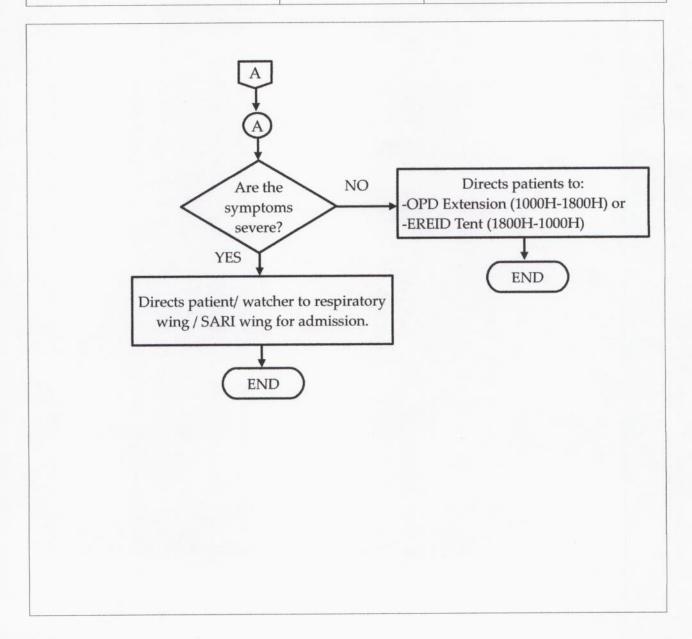


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