Pandemic Response Protocol & Procedure

Title: CAMPUS COVID PRECAUTIONS FOR CLINICS

Regulation Reference:

Protocol Statement:

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso wishes to provide guidance for staff, students, faculty, and residents to transition safely back to clinic sites.

Scope and Distribution:

This protocol applies to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP EP) ambulatory clinics.

Procedure:

Patient care areas:

Any area inside the TTP EP Clinics buildings where patients/visitors enter or circulate. These include common or individual clinic hallways, waiting areas, exam or procedure rooms, vital signs stations and desks or offices where interactions with patients or visitors take place.

Mask wearing:

1- All individuals must wear face coverings in patient care areas at all times, including in-clinic open workstations.

Distancing:

2- The 6 feet distancing between patients/visitors in patient care areas is discontinued.
3- Distancing is not required between employees/students at workstations and between employee/students and patients/visitors during direct healthcare interactions.
4- Existent transparent barriers in counters will remain.

TTP EP may reinstate the 6 feet distancing in the future depending on increase risk assessments or any new regulatory guidelines.

Screening:

5- Employee/student with flu like symptoms, recent exposure or awaiting test results will complete a survey, notifying the COVID Response Team (CRT) and their supervisor.
6- Screening of patient and visitor for COVID-19 via Phreesia is discontinued.
7- Patient and visitor screening will continue at individual clinics during the check-in process at the front desk/entrance and over the phone for those patients requesting appointments. The latter is followed by immediate clinic evaluation and decision of positive screens.
8- Patients will have access to all available entrances.

Screen positive patients at Clinic entrance or front desk:

9- Designated accommodations to isolate and evaluate patients who screen positive in the clinic entrance/front desk will continue in each individual clinic. Those include waiting area, exam room, personnel and PPE.
10- Re-scheduling of these patients should be at the discretion of the Clinic and consider the need and type of encounter. Rescheduling should have the prior standing or immediate agreement of the Clinic Medical Director.

**Visitors:**
11- Individual clinics will not supersede three accompanying visitors per patient when considered needed by provider or patient.
12- Adult supervision of minors is required at all times.

**Virtual visits:**
13- Virtual visits will continue to be offered for those patients interested or requesting this visit type.
14- Patients requesting in-person visits must be seen in person.

**Surface dis-infection:**
15- Environmental services and clinic staff continue to dis-infect surfaces with frequent patient contact twice a day.