Pandemic Response Protocol & Procedure

Title: CAMPUS RESPIRATORY PRECAUTIONS FOR CLINICS
Effective Date: May 2023

Regulation Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines.

Protocol Statement:
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso wishes to provide guidance for staff, students, faculty, and residents while working or learning at any clinic sites.

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

Procedure:

Mask wearing:
- **Anyone (Patients, Providers and Staff)** must wear a face covering or mask if in the last 10 days:
  - a. Was exposed to a known COVID infected person and not wearing a face covering or mask at the time.
  - b. Is presenting with symptoms suggestive of a respiratory infection.
    i. Symptoms include but not limited to: nasal obstruction or discharge, cough, dry or scratching throat, sneezing, body aches, headache, fever, or loss of taste or smell.
- **IF** the **Patient/Visitor** is unwilling to use face covering or mask when asked, they will be denied access to the clinic.
- **Providers and Staff** must wear a mask when:
  - a. Reporting and receiving instructions from the COVID Response Team (CRT) as applicable.
  - b. Interacting with patients known to be immunocompromised.
    i. This includes but not limited to: active treatment for solid tumor, hematologic malignancies, solid-organ or bone marrow transplant, primary immunodeficiency, advanced or untreated HIV infection, active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medication.
- The use of masks in other situations is optional.

Distancing:
- Distancing is not required.

Screening:
- Employees/students with flu like symptoms, recent exposure, or awaiting test results will complete a survey notifying the CRT and their supervisor.
- Patient and visitor screening will continue at individual clinics during the check-in process at the front desk.

Screening positive patients encountered at Clinic front desk:
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- Patients and visitors will be given a mask and asked to properly wear them throughout their clinic encounter.
- PPE (to include at minimum N-95 masks, eye protection, and gloves) must be available to be used during the encounter at the discretion of the provider seeing the patient.
- Re-scheduling of these patients should be at the discretion of the Clinic and have the prior standing or immediate agreement of the Clinic Medical Director.

Visitors:
- Restrictions apply only to visitors with symptoms who should be asked to wait outside the clinic.

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

Surface disinfection:
- Environmental services and clinic staff continue to disinfect surfaces with frequent patient contact per standard schedule.