



Chest Imaging in the Emergency Department during the COVID pandemic



CONFIRMED COVID
Tested Positive

SUSPECTED COVID
Meets current case definition of COVID

RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS, FEVER or INFLUENZA LIKE ILLNESS (ILI)
Does not meet current COVID case definitions but COVID not excluded

NO ILI SYMPTOMS
COVID not considered a realistic differential

Avoid imaging unless it will make a significant change to management

Imaging generally plays no role in the diagnosis or risk stratification of COVID

If in doubt discuss with ED consultant, senior registrar or respiratory COVID consultant

Minimise imaging where possible

NOTES
Radiology Room 3
Will be available for patients in whom COVID is considered likely to ensure proper cleaning as well as flow through other rooms

Portable X-ray Machines
ILI machine
One will be dedicated to higher risk patients in Observation ward and the negative pressure rooms (aerosol generating procedure rooms - AGP) and will require high levels of cleaning

Resus machine
The other will be dedicated to resuscitation and low risk patients in the remainder of the department

ILI – influenza like illness
AGP – aerosol generating procedure rooms (negative pressure rooms)
NP – Nasal prongs
HM – Hudson mask

CXR

ILI dedicated
Portable X-ray in
AGP or ED Obs

Droplet or aerosol
PPE depend on
patient location and
management

Consider Ultrasound
by DDU / resp only

CT chest

Must be requested by ED or resp
COVID consultant and approved
by radiology who will review the
CXR

Consider delay until COVID screen
is back if not yet confirmed

**Notify nursing, HSAs and CT staff
to coordinate transfer**

TRANSFER PROTOCOL
Transfer team requires fresh PPE
Secure all points along route Inform
target destination prior to transfer
If transferring with NP cover their face
with a surgical mask or HM

CXR

Use portable X-ray
If pt in ED Obs / AGP areas
use ILI machine
If pt in rest of ED use resus
machine

If portable not available use
Radiology Room 3

Droplet precautions

If transfer needed see
TRANSFER PROTOCOL
(next box)

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CXR

Routine
procedure

CT chest

Routine
procedure