

Coronavirus Update: for Community Providers

- At this time, COVID-19 (Coronavirus 2019) has not been diagnosed in Clinton County.
- It is important to know how to triage patients who may present to your office or call thinking they have the virus. We suggest the following:

If the patient is at home:

- Interview the patient by phone to determine risk factors.
- Instruct them to remain at home unless it is clear that immediate care is needed.
- Do not have the patient come to your office or the emergency room without careful interview screening first. If you identify on interview that the patient meets risk factors for COVID-19, call the Clinton County Health Department at (518) 565-4848 immediately for guidance.
- Instruct the patient to remain at home and they will be contacted by the health department.

If the patient presents to your office and thinks they may be infected:

- Immediately give the patient a mask and escort them to a private exam room and close the door. The door must remain closed.
- If possible conduct an interview by phone with the patient for clinical signs (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and risk factors. [NYS DOH Website](#)
- If, after the interview, you feel the patient may be infected, contact the health department immediately and await further instruction.
- Do not attempt to collect specimens for testing unless directed by the health department.
- After the patient is discharged from the exam room, close the door. The room should not be used for at least 2 hours (the door must remain closed during this time).

- **NYS DOH Website**
- **NYS DOH Hotline: 1-888-364-3065**
- **CDC Website**
- **Dr. Collins will be available next week to visit your office. Page him at 518-574-5609 to set up a time or get questions answered. On Wednesday, March 11, from 12-1 pm, Dr. Collins will also be presenting a Q&A session on COVID-19.**
 - More details to follow

