Provider Instructions for Confirmed Cases -
Special Groups

Purpose: Provide guidance to providers who have COVID-19 infected patients who fall into special groups: special occupation, critically ill, or deceased/impending death

Definitions: Special Groups - special occupations, pregnant, critically ill, or deceased
Special Occupations - healthcare workers, first responders, EMT, fire, police

1) General guidance to share with COVID-19 patients who are not hospitalized, critically ill, or have special needs/circumstances
   a) Confirm that the patient is aware of their COVID-19 test results.
   b) Determine whether patient is critically ill or hospitalized or impending death.
   c) Determine if patient lives in congregate setting (e.g., Jail, Long Term Care Facility (LTCF), Dorm, Shelter) – See Provider Instructions for Confirmed Cases Living in Congregate Settings
   d) Share general self-isolation guidelines with the patient.
   e) Ensure patient is isolated in a single-person room with the door closed and with access to a dedicated bathroom.
      (i) Patient should remain isolated for 14 days after the date of their positive test result OR until 7 days after fever is gone and other symptoms are improving, whichever is longer.
      (ii) Family members should remain quarantined for 14 days after patient is isolated. If they have no symptoms after 14 days, they can continue normal activities.
      (iii) If either patient or family member becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) they should call their provider.

2) Guidance for COVID-19 patients with special occupations:
   a) If the case (or household contact of a case) has a special occupation, they should be instructed to alert their employer of their diagnosis or exposure and follow existing policies and procedures for self-isolation, which may allow return to work under certain monitoring and/or restriction.
   c) Return to work criteria may include the following: a) 14 days after date of positive COVID-19 test result or 7 days after resolution of fever and substantial improvement in symptoms, whichever is longer, or b) 1 negative nasopharyngeal swab performed after symptoms have improved. The patient’s employer should be contacted for organization-specific guidelines.
3) Guidance for COVID-19 patients who are hospitalized, pregnant, or critically ill:
   a) If hospitalized, place a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 in a single-person room with the door closed. The patient should have a dedicated bathroom. Providers caring for this patient should wear a respirator (preferred, if available) or facemask, gown, gloves, and eye protection.
      i) Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (negative pressure) should be reserved for patients undergoing an aerosol-generating procedure (e.g. BiPAP).
   b) If the case is pregnant and in the second or third trimester, it is recommended that the obstetrician of record be notified in order to ensure proper isolation precautions (airborne or droplet with eye protection, and contact) be put in place should the patient require evaluation or admission.
   c) If the case is critically ill or at risk of becoming critically ill, the provider may contact Gilead (compassionateaccess@gilead.com) to consider compassionate use or enrollment in a drug trial for access to remdesivir, an experimental drug with some demonstrated benefit in patients with severe COVID-19. Providers may be offered clinical guidance for treatment of severe COVID-19.

4) Guidance for COVID-19 patients who are deceased or impending death:
   a) At time of death of a case, or diagnosis of a decedent, the provider should immediately notify:
      i) the Medical Examiner/Coroner (408-793-1900 ext2)
      ii) Public Health Department (408-885-4214, option 3)
   b) Refer to CDC guidance on postmortem specimens (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-mncoy/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html)

5) For more information on COVID-19
   - Visit the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department webpage: www.sccphd.org/coronavirus
   - Visit the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department Provider webpage: www.sccphd.org/covidproviders
   - Visit the Center of Disease Control & Prevention webpage: www.cdc.gov/covid19