

Supplementary Material 3: Discharge instructions for patients after their alternate care site visit.

Patients were told to wait home isolated in their room, for the phone call by the emergency medicine physician.

“Dear Ms. / Mr.,

This is to explain to you the procedures that we performed in this alternate care site, as a screening for influenza-like illness during this COVID-19 pandemic, and what will follow. This protocol has been approved by the ULSS 7 Health Administration (Regione del Veneto), by the San Bassiano Health Direction Board, and by the Emergency Department Director.

While here, you screened positive for influenza-like illness symptoms and/or shortness of breath, that are possible symptoms of COVID-19. That’s why we asked you to undergo a chest x-ray, a nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19, and blood draws. We’ve also measured your vitals and your ability to walk at sustained speed without having shortness of breath, and we didn’t find anything worrisome during this visit.

Within a few hours, you’ll receive a phone call from an emergency medicine physician staffing the emergency department, so please be sure the given telephone number is correct.

The doctor will interview you regarding your symptoms and past medical history and will tell you the results of the blood exams, chest x-ray, and COVID-19 swab. Should the results and the history collected require a more advanced evaluation or a prescription, you will be asked to come back to the emergency department and be re-examined. Otherwise, the doctor will explain what you have to do at home and will ask you to seek your general practitioner’s attention as soon as possible.

Please, while returning home, follow the general indications issued by the Ministry of Health and The World Health Organization to avoid potential further spreading of infectious diseases, briefly:

wear a mask; wash your hands; keep social distance > 1 m from other people at home; stay at home until the result of the COVID-19 swab is available and, if possible, wait in a separate room.

Once at home, notice that any of the following are signs to come back for further evaluation:

- fever not disappearing after 5 days of proper therapy (according to a doctor's prescription);
- fever with chest or abdominal pain / intense cough;
- fever and shortness of breath;
- very high fever with shakings;
- fever with extreme lack of energy.

This is another list of signs or symptoms that need medical attention:

- intense headache not controlled by common pain killers / associated with vomiting or confusion / or localized posteriorly;
- diarrhea persisting for more than 3 days; vomiting for more than 24 hours (12 hours for children and the elderly); diarrhea or vomiting associated with intense abdominal pain that locates in a precise area of the belly;
- pain to ears and/or throat: if intense and radiating to the head, if you can't speak adequately, or you have pain when swallowing.
- intense red eye with pain
- pruritic rash on the skin, located in a precise area, and elevated from the surface.

As explained before discharging, place your hand on your belly and count how many times you breathe per minute, several times a day. Should the rate exceed 25 per minute (for an adult or children aged 9 years or more) or exceed 30 per minute (for children aged less than 9 years), please come back to the emergency department or call the emergency medical service.

You'll be called in 15 days to check for your health status and need of coming back to the emergency department.

Please, note that all the data you provided will be managed in compliance with the European GDPR 679/16 and the Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 dated 30/06/2003. Information will be also grouped in an anonymous database to perform quality check, validation of this model, and potentially research.

Thank you for your cooperation.”