COVID-19 Management for Psychiatric Inpatients

**Patient on psychiatric inpatient unit develops symptoms c/w COVID-19**

- Notify patient’s primary care provider
- Arrange transfer**. If adult patient, call ATC; if pediatric patient, call COVID Gen Peds Attending On-Call (pager 6043)
- Transfer patient to appropriate unit for medical care**; Behavioral Health staff to be assigned to medical unit to assist in care.
- Primary service is Internal Medicine (or Pediatrics) with Psychiatry consulting
- Consider closing the psychiatric inpatient unit to new admissions
- Consult with Epidemiology for exposure investigation at 356-1606 or pager 3158
- Follow protocol for discontinuation of isolation

**Asymptomatic patient on psychiatric inpatient unit tests positive for COVID-19 on admission* or Q5day test**

- Place patient in private room
- Initiate Isolation: Modified Airborne, Contact and Eye precautions
- Notify primary care provider
- Notify Epidemiology at 356-1606 or pager 3158
- Screen all patients on unit for symptoms
  - Fever, cough, sore throat, body aches
  - Notify provider and isolate any additional symptomatic patients

**COVID-19 test result**

- Positive***
- Negative

- If respiratory viral symptoms present, initiate droplet precautions; Patient remains in private room
- Consult with provider and consider ordering Respiratory Pathogen Panel for symptomatic patients that are negative for COVID-19
- Patient may return to routine activity when all of the following criteria are met:
  - Fever free for 24 hours
  - Respiratory symptoms are improving
  - Should continue to mask until symptoms resolve

**Other Considerations:**

* If acceptable documentation is obtained, positive and negative PCR or antigen test results from outside UIHC can be accepted for admission if they were collected ≤48 hours prior to admission. See The Loop (section: COVID-19 testing; External positive COVID-19 test results).

For patients held in the ED ≤48 hours before admission, the COVID-19 test obtained in the ED is acceptable prior to transfer to inpatient psychiatry unit. If held >48 hours, re-test patient before transferring to the unit.

**Bed placement and primary service assignment questions, consult Psychiatry Attending and Nursing Leadership.

*** Before testing all patients, consider: ≥1 positive test within 2 weeks of first positive test, hospital onset case, or many exposures to the symptomatic + patient.