

Covid-19 and spirometry: is it time for a change?

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Abstract

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused the closure of many clinics and wards, some of which have been equipped for the management and care of ill patients. In the last year, many countries have adopted a common plan to contain hospital infections by limiting the execution of respiratory function tests (TFR), including spirometry, exclusively to urgent / necessary cases. All the recommendations of the major scientific societies regarding the use of spirometry in the Covid era were formulated in spring 2020, in the initial stages of the pandemic. Currently, the continuous acquisition of knowledge about Covid-19 and the vaccination of healthcare personnel, allows us to face a new phase of the pandemic, in which it is possible for us to adapt our lifestyle and health procedures in order to reduce the risk of contagion in the hospital setting. In the following article, we have reported the recommendations of major international and national respiratory societies, emphasizing the need for a review considering new scientific advances. In addition, we shared our work experience at the Pediatric Respiratory Disease Clinic of University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli' during the last months of the pandemic.

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Triage card for patients summoned for hospitalization or outpatient service to be attached to the medical record or to be returned.

Last and first name _____
 Date and place of birth _____
 Address _____
 Telephone number _____
 Doctor performing the triage _____

If the patient answers 'yes' to one of the following questions, contact medical responsible of the outpatient unit:

Have you recently been to an unsafe location?	YES	NO
Have you had any contact in the past 10 days with confirmed cases?	YES	NO
Have you had contact with people from high-risk areas??	YES	NO
Have you had contact with family members of suspected or confirmed cases?	YES	NO

If the patient answers 'yes' to one of the following questions, contact medical responsible of the outpatient unit:

Have you had a fever in the past 10 days?	YES	NO
Have you had it in the past 10 days:		
Cough	YES	NO
Respiratory disorders	YES	NO
Sore throat	YES	NO
Muscle / joint pains	YES	NO
Vomit / Diarrhea	YES	NO
Smell or taste disorders	YES	NO

Temperature measurement _____

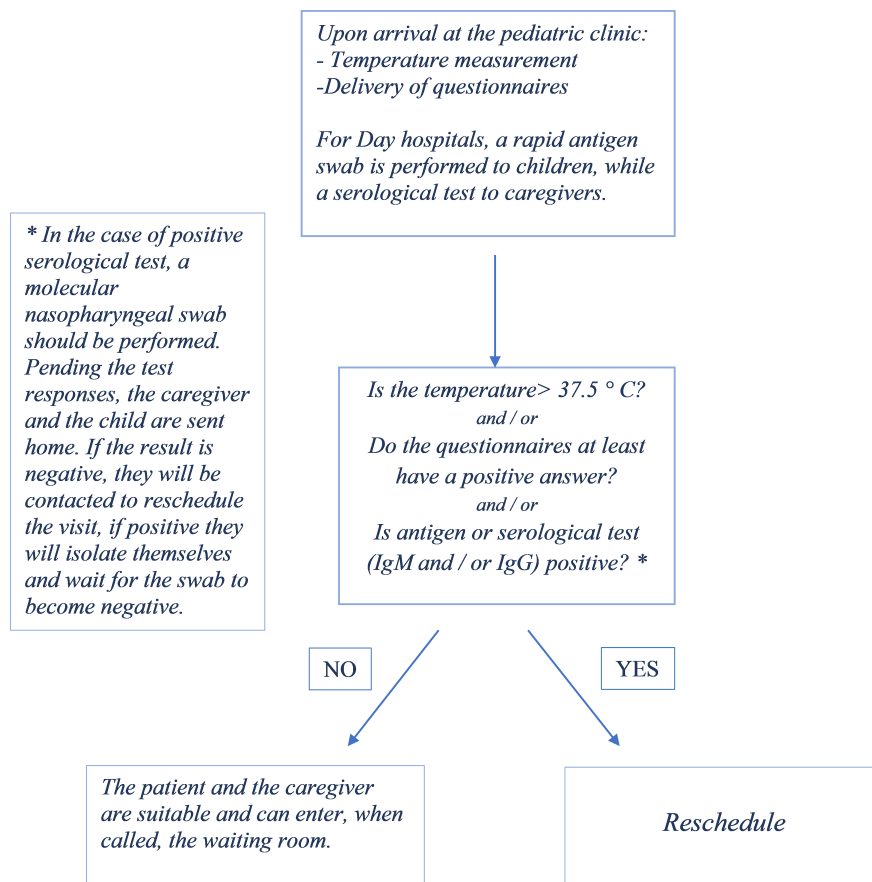
Patient's signature _____

Covid 19 rapid test (for hospitalizations only) Negative IgM IgG

If the temperature is $> 37.5^{\circ} \text{C}$ or test positive, contact medical responsible of the outpatient unit.

Date e Time

Signature of Doctor performing the triage.



<i>FFP2 or KN95 MASK</i>	
<i>DISPOSABLE GOWN</i>	
<i>DISPOSABLE GLOVES</i>	
<i>PROTECTIVE VISOR</i>	
<i>PROTECTIVE GOGGLES</i>	