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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Covid_and_spirometry.docx available at https://authorea.com/users/730662/articles/710212covid-19-and-spirometry-is-it-time-for-a-change 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:

1		
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 ° C or test positive, contact medical responsible of the outpatient unit.

Date e Time

Signature of Doctor performing the triage.

Upon arrival at the pediatric clinic: - Temperature measurement -Delivery of questionnaires For Day hospitals, a rapid antigen swab is performed to children, while a serological test to caregivers. * In the case of positive serological test, a molecular nasopharyngeal swab should be performed. Pending the test *Is the temperature> 37.5 ° C?* responses, the caregiver and the child are sent and / or Do the questionnaires at least home. If the result is negative, they will be have a positive answer? contacted to reschedule and / or the visit, if positive they Is antigen or serological test will isolate themselves (IgM and / or IgG) positive? * and wait for the swab to become negative. NO YES The patient and the caregiver are suitable and can enter, when Reschedule called, the waiting room.

FFP2 or KN95 MASK	C PPPP C PPPP and the PPP
DISPOSABLE GOWN	
DISPOSABLE GLOVES	
PROTECTIVE VISOR	
PROTECTIVE GOGGLES	