

# OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 IN AUSTERE ENVIRONMENTS



Prior to using this guidance, ensure facility includes proper personal protective equipment (PPE), a designated COVID-19 provider, and assigned quarantine and isolation treatment areas.

**Screen Person Under Investigation (PUI):**  
Are COVID-19 signs/symptoms present?\*

- 1. Fever (>38C/100.4F)  
*Note: Elderly may not present with fever*
- 2. And/or has at least one of the following:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste/smell
  - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
  - Respiratory accessory muscle use
  - History of exposure to high-risk areas within 14 days of symptoms
  - Known exposure to COVID-19 within 14 days of symptoms

**yes**

**no**

**Follow COVID-19 Initial Actions**

1. Place mask on patient
2. Move to designated COVID-19 treatment area to be evaluated by designated provider
3. Ensure healthcare personnel adhere to standard contact and droplet precautions

**Triage & Treat Condition per Local Policy**

**Return to Duty:**

- Release to unit leadership

**Quarantine:**

- Commander separates non-sick personnel to designated quarantine area

**Isolation & Treatment:**

- Medical officer admits sick personnel to isolation designated treatment area

**Early Evacuation:**

- Consider evacuating early, especially for high-risk personnel, to avoid intubation in an austere environment

**Determine Disposition Status:**

- Return to Duty
- Quarantine
- Isolation & Treatment
- Early Evacuation

**Notify Chain of Command of Disposition & Track/Report PUIs per Unit Policy**

\*Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention



Visit [https://jts.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm/PI\\_CPGs/COVID-19](https://jts.amedd.army.mil/index.cfm/PI_CPGs/COVID-19) to read the full COVID-19 guidance for austere environments.

