

This algorithm is meant for use by healthcare professionals and their surrogates, not by the general public. This algorithm applies regardless of whether or not the patient has been vaccinated for influenza. Patients who do not have all the signs/symptoms (and therefore are not eligible for the algorithm) are encouraged to seek care or talk to a healthcare provider about their illness.

Are all of the following present?

1. Age greater than 18
2. Fever or feverishness*
3. Cough or sore throat

*If antipyretics are taken this may inhibit a patient's ability to mount a fever.

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NO

Although influenza cannot be ruled out in this patient, this algorithm should not be used to guide clinical decision making in this case. Advise them to contact their healthcare provider for advice about their current illness. Many people with influenza illness will not have a fever. Other symptoms of influenza can include chills, body aches/muscle pain, headache, fatigue, runny nose and occasionally diarrhea and vomiting

YES ↓

Are any of the following signs or symptoms present?

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest
- Dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improved by then return or worsen within a few days

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YES

This patient should be advised to seek medical care immediately

NO ↓

Is the patient:

- Age 65 or older OR pregnant OR are any of these comorbid conditions present:
- Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except isolated hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological (including sickle cell disease), or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus)
- Disorders that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration (e.g. cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders)
- Immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or by HIV

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YES

This patient is at higher risk for influenza complications. The patient should be advised to contact their healthcare provider to discuss antiviral treatment that day. Providers may advise such patients to take antiviral medications for treatment or other therapy. Early use of influenza antiviral medications can reduce the risk of influenza related complications

Note: Obese & morbidly obese patients should be carefully evaluated for the presence of underlying medical conditions that are known to increase the risk of influenza complications and receive empiric treatment when these conditions are present, or if signs of lower respiratory tract infection are present.

NO ↓

Based on the information above, this patient is at low risk for influenza complications and may not require testing or treatment for influenza if their symptoms are mild. Should their symptoms worsen or if they are concerned about their health they should be advised to seek medical care.

In order to help prevent spread of influenza to others, these patients should be advised:

- To keep away from others to the extent possible, particularly those at higher risk for complications from influenza (see box on next page). This may include staying in a separate room with the door closed.
- To cover their coughs and sneezes
- Avoid sharing utensils
- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs
- Stay at home until 24 hours after their fever is gone

More information is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance_homecare.htm

**For all adult (>18 years) patients triaged using this algorithm
the following should also be assessed:**

Does the patient live with a person at higher risk for complications of influenza including someone who is”

- Ag < 2 or 65 or older?
OR
- Pregnant?

Or someone with **any** of the following comorbid conditions:

- Chronic pulmonary (including asthma), cardiovascular (except isolated hypertension), renal, hepatic, hematological (including sickle cell disease), or metabolic disorders (including diabetes mellitus)
- Disorders that can compromise respiratory function or the handling of respiratory secretions or that can increase the risk for aspiration (e.g., cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injuries., seizure disorders, or other neuromuscular disorders)
- Immunosuppression, including that caused by medications or by HIV
- Child < 19 years old on chronic aspirin therapy
- Obesity or morbid obesity with any of the comorbid conditions listed above

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YES

Household contacts who are at higher risk for complications of influenza should be advised to contact their healthcare provider for advice on steps they might need to take to prevent infection