

COVID-19 Simulation: Screening Prior To Entering A Hospital or Healthcare Facility

“Equipment” Needed:

3 people	Hand sanitizer, surgical masks, gloves
Colored wrist bands	Patient register
Canopy/tent	Table (at least 2 meters wide)
Signage	3 buckets

This simulation illustrates the process for two sample patients. The rationale for this “screening” has the following benefits:

1. Keeps the entire hospital (or all but an isolated unit) free of COVID-19.
2. Allays fear that people can contract the disease at the hospital.
3. Enables specialized training of a smaller number of healthcare workers, which ensures better training while reducing the risk to the rest of the healthcare workforce.
4. Allows the hospital to uninterruptedly treat all non-COVID-19 patients.

Designing such a system has the following challenges:

1. Designating appropriate non-hospital facilities, or creating an appropriate and safe isolation unit within the hospital.
2. Incentivizing healthcare workers to choose to care for patients with possible COVID-19.
3. Training a small cadre of healthcare workers to manage actual and potential COVID-19 cases while keeping the healthcare workers safe.

Simulation Exercise:

Patient 1: The patient arrives at the hospital gate or screening tent and is met by a healthcare “screener” wearing appropriate PPE. An abbreviated history of present illness is obtained. The patient has a history of heart disease and complains of chest pain like his previous heart attack. He/she has no “flu-like” symptoms. His/her arm receives a (?green) band and the patient is allowed to enter the hospital where the patient goes through the usual triage process and has an EKG, further management, etc.

Patient 2: The patient presents with a fever, cough, and mild shortness of breath. (A travel history is no longer relevant given community spread.) The patient immediately is given a surgical mask (if not already wearing one), is logged in by giving a name and a way to be contacted, and is directed to the closest COVID-19 testing or treatment facility or to a designated isolation ward on hospital grounds that offers specialized assessment and management.