To Our Nurses,

As a precaution for the community, we are asking you to **speak** with each of your patients shortly before your visit to screen them using the attached COVID-19 Patient Screening tool:

1. Ask your patient if they have a **fever, cough, shortness of breath** or other symptoms of lower respiratory infection
2. Ask if they have a known or suspected exposure to COVID-19.
3. **Call [INSERT AGENCY NAME AND PHONE NUMBER HERE]** **for any positive response to obtain guidance on whether you should see the patient.**
4. A completed screening tool must be submitted for **EACH** home visit that you do!

FOLLOWING **TELEPHONE SCREENING**:

* If the patient has not been exposed to the virus and is not experiencing symptoms, then the patient may be seen.
* STANDARD PRECAUTIONS MUST BE USED.
* In the home: ASSESS THE PATIENT AND ANY FAMILY MEMBERS FOR SYMPTOMS BEFORE ACCESS. If the patient/family member is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, please leave the home.

KEY POINTS:

* Complete Patient Screening Tool prior to making home visit.
* Wash your hands upon arrival at patient’s home and then take the patient’s temperature. If afebrile continue with the visit.
* Minimize contact with the patient, family members and hard surfaces.
* No hugging or shaking hands.
* COVID-19 is a droplet virus that is spread by close contact and surfaces that are contaminated: this can include, hard surfaces, skin and clothing.
* Masks are not necessary unless they are used as a reminder to keep your hands away from your face.
* THE BEST DEFENSE IS.... GOOD HAND-WASHING with soap and water for 20 seconds.  Use of paper towels is recommended.