GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTANCE TO AN ALTERNATE CARE SITE (ACS)* FROM TRIAGE, EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT, POST-HOSPITAL DISCHARGE, OR OTHER REFERRAL SITES

**High risk clinical features may include, but are not limited to:**
- Escalating O₂ needs, HR >115, BP below baseline, or arrhythmia
- Age ≥ 65
- Asthma, COPD, or other lung disease
- Heart failure or other cardiovascular condition
- Immunocompromised (HIV, high-dose steroids, TNF-alpha, etc.)
- Current solid organ or hematologic malignancy
- End-stage renal disease or end-stage liver disease
- Active alcohol use disorder with prior withdrawal, DTs, or seizures
- Other concerning or undifferentiated symptoms

*An Alternate Care Site is a nontraditional care site that provides care for low-acuity, semi-ambulatory patients when hospitals are at or past capacity. Indications may include:
- Patients with no safe place to stay or quarantine
- Patients requiring low-acuity clinical care (≤2L NC)
- Patients requiring extended observation due to:
  - High-risk comorbidities
  - Inadequate home support
  - Barriers to returning to the ER or calling 911

**HOSPITALIZED/SNF ADULT PATIENTS**
1. Is the patient stable for transfer to a low-acuity ACS?
   - HD stable, O₂ stable and ≤ 2L NC, no tele or CPO
   - No high-risk or rapidly worsening symptoms**
   - Yes
   - No

2. Can the patient be safely discharged home?
   - Safe place to stay and isolate with adequate home support
   - Able to call 911 if worsening
   - Yes
   - No

3. Is the patient confirmed or presumed to be COVID-19 positive?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Does the patient meet all criteria for a Low-Acuity Alternate Care Site (ACS)?*
   - COVID-19 positive
   - Hemodynamically stable
   - SpO₂ ≥ 90% on ≤ 2L NC
   - Heplocked peripheral IV, if needed
   - No C. diff infection
   - No trach or feeding tube
   - No more than 2 person assist
   - No severe dementia or delirium
   - No acute severe mental illness
   - Low safety risk (falls, wandering, elopement)
   - Yes
   - No

Ongoing hospitalization or remain at referral site

**TRIAGE OR EMERGENCY ROOM ADULT PATIENTS**
1. Does the patient have high-risk or rapidly worsening symptoms requiring hospital admission?**
   - Yes
   - No

2. Can the patient be safely discharged home?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Is the patient confirmed or presumed to be COVID-19 positive?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Does the patient meet all criteria for a Low-Acuity Alternate Care Site (ACS)?*
   - Yes
   - No

Acute care admission

Home with guidance

Not an ACS candidate unless facility has ability to separate care

Other dispo (rehab, SNF, admission)

Transfer to Low-Acuity Alternate Care Site