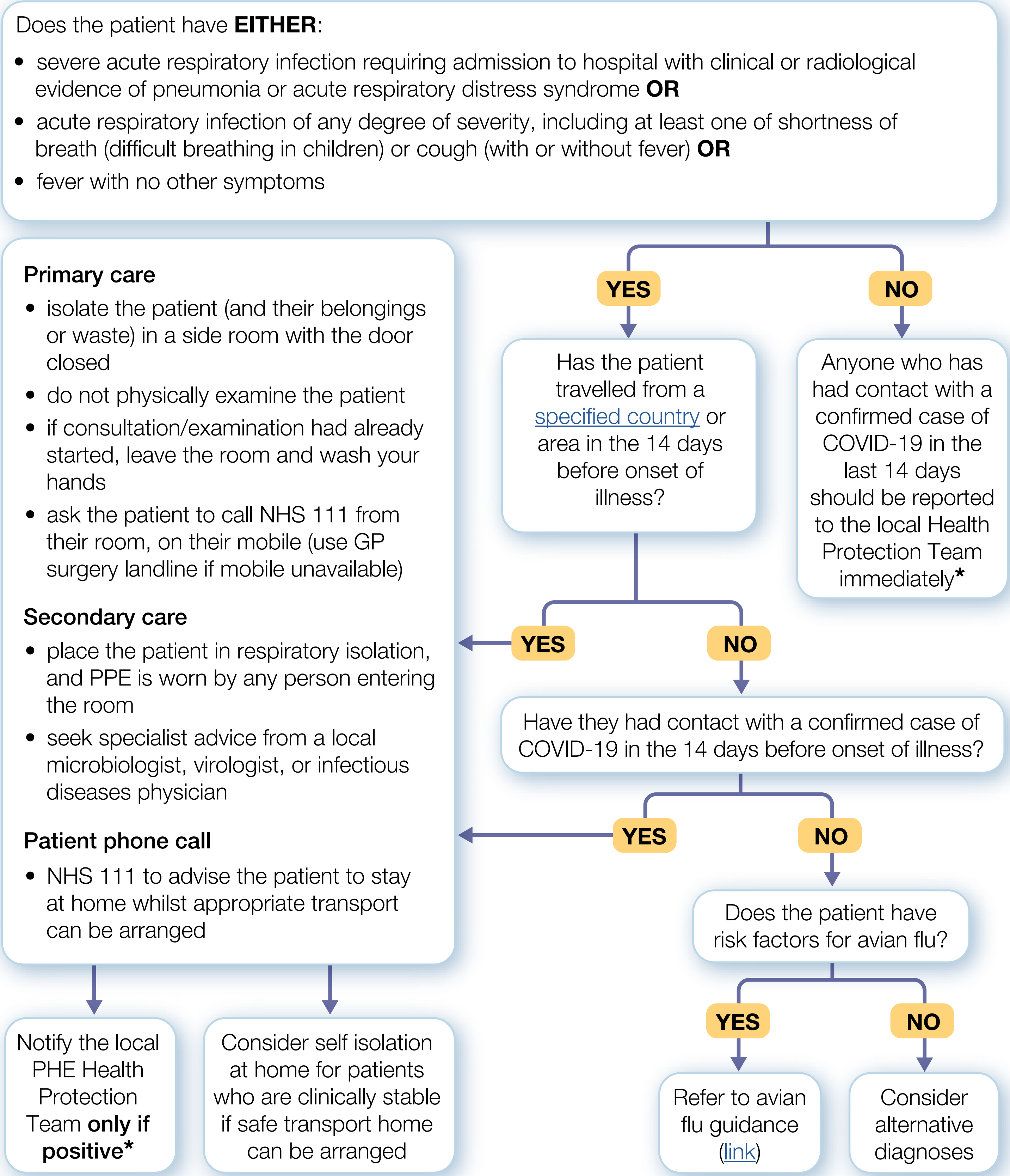
Public Health England

Management of a suspected case of COVID-19



Does the patient have **EITHER**:

- severe acute respiratory infection requiring admission to hospital with clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome **OR**
- acute respiratory infection of any degree of severity, including at least one of shortness of breath (difficult breathing in children) or cough (with or without fever) **OR**
- fever with no other symptoms

YES

Has the patient travelled from a specified country or area in the 14 days before onset of illness?

NO

Anyone who has had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days should be reported to the local Health Protection Team immediately*

YES

NO

Have they had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 14 days before onset of illness?

YES

NO

Does the patient have risk factors for avian flu?

YES

Refer to avian flu guidance (link)

NO

Consider alternative diagnoses

Primary care

- isolate the patient (and their belongings or waste) in a side room with the door closed
- do not physically examine the patient
- if consultation/examination had already started, leave the room and wash your hands
- ask the patient to call NHS 111 from their room, on their mobile (use GP surgery landline if mobile unavailable)

Secondary care

- place the patient in respiratory isolation, and PPE is worn by any person entering the room
- seek specialist advice from a local microbiologist, virologist, or infectious diseases physician

Patient phone call

- NHS 111 to advise the patient to stay at home whilst appropriate transport can be arranged

Notify the local PHE Health Protection Team **only if positive***

Consider self isolation at home for patients who are clinically stable if safe transport home can be arranged

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Foot note - For further guidance:

*Link to local Health Protection Team lookup

Link to background information

Link to initial investigation of possible cases guidance

Link to infection prevention and control guidance

Link to primary care management guidance

Link to clinical diagnostic laboratories guidance

Version 7. Updated 25 Feb 2020