When to use the PITA

- Pandemic declared
- Patient presents with suspected influenza or potential influenza exposure

**Is resuscitation required?**

- Yes → 1
- No → **Is patient toxic and/or at high risk for deterioration or hospitalization?**

  - Yes → 2
  - No → **Does patient have significant abnormalities in vital signs?**

    - Yes → 3
    - No → **Does patient need only an exam and discharge to home?**

      - Yes → 5
      - No → **Does patient need a workup and multiple interventions?**

        - Yes → 3
        - No → **Does patient need minimal interventions?**

          - Yes → 4
          - No → **Does patient need only an exam and discharge to home?**

            - Yes → 5
Note 1. Is resuscitation required?

Airway
- Inability to protect/maintain airway (respiratory failure/exhaustion)
- Needing interventions like BVM ventilation, intubation, or BiPAP/CPAP

Breathing
- Oxygen saturation <90%
- Severe respiratory distress
- Breathlessness
  - inability to speak complete sentences
- Apnea
- Excessive work of breathing (e.g., exaggerated retractions/normal flaring and/or tripod position)
- Extremely labored breathing/grunting
- Cyanosis

Note 2. Is patient toxic and/or at high risk for deterioration or hospitalization?

Toxic Appearance
- Respiratory
  - Oxygen saturation 90 or 91%
  - Moderate respiratory distress
  - Shortness of breath
  - Breathing fast or slow
  - Increased work of breathing (e.g., some nasal flaring, mild retractions, or grunting)
- Infants – inability to feed

High Risk for Deterioration/Hospitalization*

High Risk
- Assign Level 2 if patient has influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms and is in high-risk group (consult CDC website for current list of high-risk groups for influenza), including but not limited to:
- Immunocompromised patients (including immunosuppression caused by HIV or by medication, such as chemotherapy or chronic steroids)

Comorbidities/Considerations
- Consider assigning Level 2 for patients with these considerations or comorbid conditions who present with ILI (especially with abnormalities in airway, breathing, circulation, and mental status):
- Asthma – moderate to severe
- COPD, cystic fibrosis or other chronic lung disease
- Serious congenital heart disease
- Congestive heart failure
- Renal disease – on dialysis
- Sickle cell disease or other serious anemias

Does patient have significant abnormalities in vital signs?

If one or more vital signs exceed parameters listed, consider assigning Level 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vital Sign</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temperature</td>
<td>&gt;38°C</td>
<td>≥90</td>
<td>≥92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Rate</td>
<td>&gt;100 bpm</td>
<td>≥85</td>
<td>≥95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory</td>
<td>&gt;24/min</td>
<td>≥20/10/min</td>
<td>≥25/10/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Pressure</td>
<td>SBP &gt;100/60</td>
<td>≥95</td>
<td>≥100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recommendation: When fever exceeds 38°C (100.4°F), rate patients aged 1-28 days as Level 2, and consider rating patients aged 1-3 months as Level 2.

Note 3. Does patient need a workup and multiple interventions?

Interventions may include:
- Chest radiograph
- Laboratory studies (complete blood count, electrolytes, and cultures)
- Intravenous (IV) fluids and medications
- Nebulized medications
- Oxygen

Consider Level 3 for patients with:
- Significant past medical history
- Worsening or relapse of influenza-like illness symptoms
- Severe or persistent vomiting requiring IV volume replacement

Note 4. Does patient need minimal interventions?

Minimal interventions (e.g., no more than one) may include those in Note 3 or:
- Medication by metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- Oral medications

Consider Level 4 for patients who may have influenza, but are stable and:
- Hospitalization is unlikely
- May have psychosocial risk factors that limit their ability to do self-care, such as elderly living alone or homeless

Note 5. Does patient need only an exam and discharge to home?

No defined interventions needed (such as those listed in Notes 3 and 4)

Patient will receive exam and discharge education, and may receive prescriptions

Printing and Folding Instructions:

1) Print double sided on 11” x 17” paper or card stock.
2) To fold: place the Pandemic Influenza Triage Algorithm (PITA) page face up. Fold the top and bottom edge to the center as shown in Figure 1.
3) Turn the folded paper over so you are now looking at part of side 2 which includes Notes 1 through 5.
   Continue by folding in half bottom to top as shown in Figure 2.
4) Next fold in half again, left under right so that the final product has the title facing you as shown in Figure 3.
5) When complete you should be looking at the folded guide measuring 4.25” x 5.5” with the title facing you as shown in Figure 4. As an option, you may wish to laminate.