The following is a sample script a practice can use at the time of appointment to help screen at-risk patients who may have been exposed to or may have a contagious disease so that the practice can direct patients to the appropriate care.

Such course of action may include:
- Monitor symptoms for the scheduled appointment
- Come immediately to the doctor’s office
- Go directly to a designated healthcare facility
- Call 911 for the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) system

Key questions for a medical practice to use in screening patients include:
- Symptoms
- Travel
- Military service
- Public transportation
- Public gatherings

A score of eight (8) or more on the screening tool might indicate that a patient may be at risk of exposure to a contagious disease or biological agent and should be referred to a physician or triage nurse who can better assess the situation and direct the patient to visit the doctor’s office immediately, to a designated healthcare facility or to instruct the patient to call 911 and notify the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) system.

If the patient is asked to come to the physician’s office, upon arrival he or she should be isolated.

Walk-in patients also should be asked the appointment triage questions at the front desk and isolated from public areas based on the scoring.

Disclaimer – The final screening methodology used by your practice should be reviewed and approved by your physician and/or medical director.
Screening patients for contagious disease or possible exposure

Sample script:

- What symptoms do you have? (Score 1 point for each symptom)
  - Fever
  - Fatigue
  - Sore throat
  - Difficulty swallowing
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Coughing
  - Headache
  - Back pain
  - Chest pain
  - Abdominal pain
  - Chills
  - Sweats

- How long have you had these symptoms? (Score: Less than a week = 2 points; more than a week = 1 point)

- Have you traveled outside the United States recently? If yes,
  - When did you leave?
  - When did you return? (Score: Less than a week = 2 points; more than a week = 1 point)
  - What countries were you in? (Score 1 point for each country)

- Are you currently, or have you been in the military? If yes,
  - Were you stationed outside the United States? (Score 1 point)
  - When were you discharged? (Score: Less than a month = 2 points; more than a month but less than a year = 1 point)

- Have you recently utilized public transportation? If yes (Score: If used every day or within the past week = 2 points; otherwise, 1 point)
  - Subway
  - Bus
  - Shared-ride service
  - Train
  - Airplane

- Have you attended any large gatherings recently? If yes (Score 1 point for each positive answer)
  - Where?

A score of eight (8) or more on the screening tool might indicate that a patient may be at risk of exposure to a contagious disease or biological agent. See practice policy for guidance.