

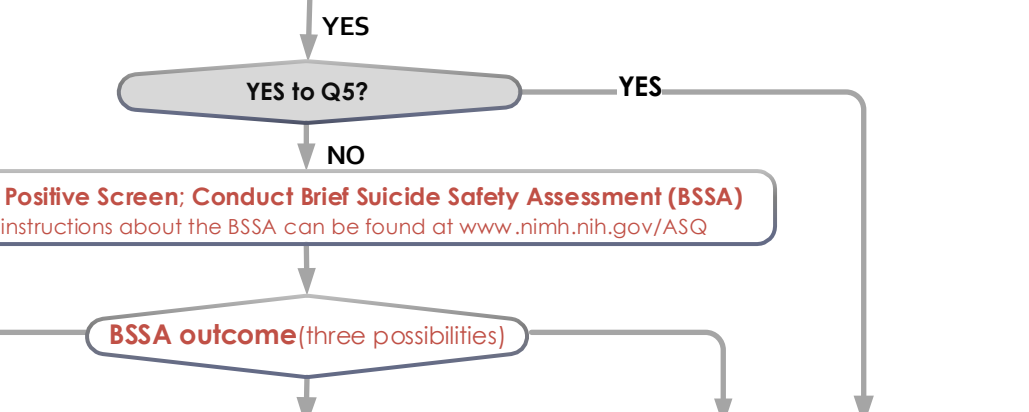
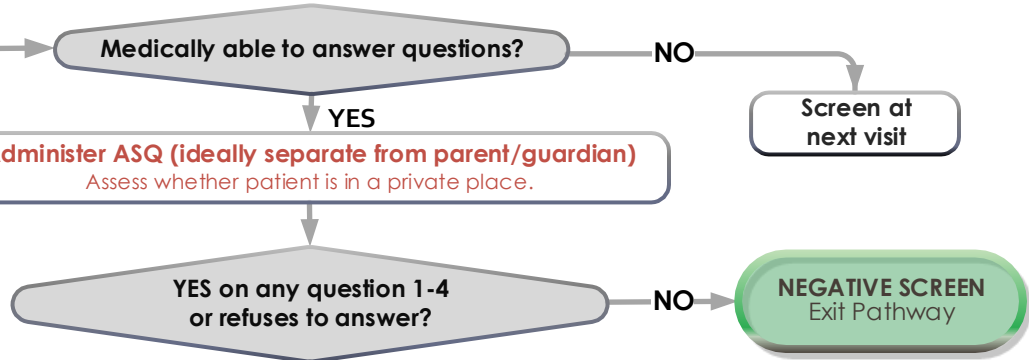
COVID-19: YOUTH SUICIDE RISK SCREENING PATHWAY

Outpatient Primary Care & Specialty Clinics:
via Phone

Pediatric provider calls/is called by parent/guardian or patient.
Screen all patients ages 10 and above who meet any of the screening criteria.*

***Screening criteria:**

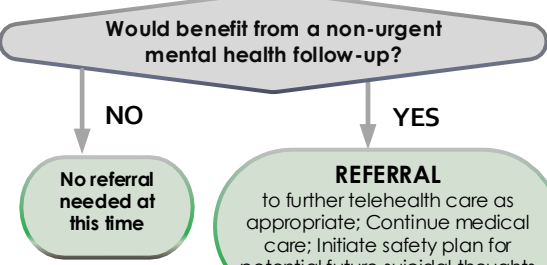
1. New patient
2. Existing patient who has not been screened within the past 30 days
3. Patient had a positive suicide risk screen the last time they were screened
4. Clinical judgement dictates screening



LOW RISK
No further evaluation needed at this time

FURTHER EVALUATION NEEDED
Mental health referral needed as soon as possible via telehealth services or in person

IMMINENT RISK
Patient has acute suicidal thoughts and needs an urgent full mental health evaluation



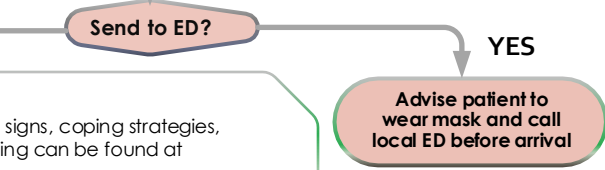
Make a safety plan with the patient and parent/guardian to activate as needed

Schedule a follow up with patient within 72 hours for safety check and to determine whether or not they were able to obtain a telehealth or in person mental health appointment

PARENT/GUARDIAN TO INITIATE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS¹
Until able to obtain full mental health evaluation via telehealth or in person

Assess need for ED visit versus parent/guardian's ability to manage patient safely at home.
Avoid ED visit if possible, balancing risk for exposure to COVID-19 versus suicide risk.

¹ Instruct parent/guardian on implementing immediate **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**
Parent/guardian in house to keep patient under direct observation at all times and remove or safely store dangerous items



SAFETY PLANNING

- Create safety plan for potential future suicidal thoughts, including identifying personal warning signs, coping strategies, social contacts for support, and emergency contacts. Detailed instructions about safety planning can be found at <https://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/patient-safety-plan-template>
- Discuss lethal means safe storage and/or removal with both parent/guardian and child (e.g. ropes, pills, firearms, belts, knives)
- Provide Resources: 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255), En Español: 1-888-628-9454, 24/7 Crisis Text Line: Text "START" to 741-741

If suicide risk becomes more acute, instruct patient/parent/guardian to contact outpatient healthcare provider to re-evaluate need for ED visit.

Schedule all patients who screen positive for a follow-up visit in 3 days to confirm safety and determine if a mental health care connection has been made. Future follow-up primary care appointments should include re-screening patient, reviewing use of safety plan, and assuring connection with mental health clinician.