HOW IT WORKS A Drive-Through ED doesn’t have to be overly complicated as long as you keep a few key steps in mind.

1. Initial Screening
As patients enter the ED parking lot they go through a mini-triage. Those with flu-like symptoms are directed to the drive-through ED.

2. The Queue
Vehicles queue up in lanes as they wait for an opening in the exam area. Instructions and wait times can be broadcast over the radio.

3. Registration
Car-side registration occurs while vehicles enter the parking structure. Paper charts are then slipped under the windshield wiper.

4. Triage/Exam Area
The 2nd stop is the exam area. Rolling curtains can be used to create quick, modular isolation areas for greater privacy.

5. Discharge
Prescriptions, instructions and payments are all handled at the car-side during the 3rd and final stop. Fees mirror those from the typical ED.

6. Observation Area
Patients can pull into a designated observation area rather than clog exam space. Nurses deliver meds and track patients on a white board.

Heating Units
Exam areas must be well heated (or cooled) depending on the environment.