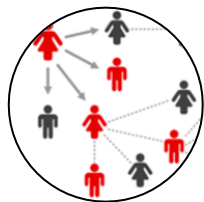


Contact Tracing During COVID-19

Who is a close contact?



Anyone who has been within 6ft of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness begins until the time the patient is isolated.

What is contact tracing?



It allows public health officials to work with patients to recall everyone they have been in close contact with while they were infected.

It must be done as quickly as possible.

How is it done?



Health staff inform contacts that they may have been exposed. They do not identify the patient who has the infection in order to protect patient privacy.

Contacts are then educated so they can understand their risk.

What do public health officials need to do?



Identify and interview infected people.

Support isolation of those who are infected.

Warn contacts of exposure and provide access to testing and care.

What should contacts do once they are exposed?



Contacts are asked to stay home and maintain social distance.

They also need to monitor themselves, check their temperature twice daily and watch for cough or shortness of breath.

If they develop symptoms, they should self-isolate and notify public health staff.

Why is contact tracing done?



It is done to warn contacts of exposure so they can begin taking care of themselves.

It is also done to stop the chain of transmission of the virus.

It allows people to know when they need to take extra precautions to protect their loved ones.

Sources:

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>

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