Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Contact Tracing

Get and Keep America Open: Supporting states, tribes, localities, and territories

Updated June 21, 2020

Revisions were made on June 17, 2020 to reflect the following

- **New!** Case Investigation Workflow PDF 📕 | PNG 🖼
- **New!** Contact Tracing Workflow PDF 📕 | PNG 🖼

Revisions were made on June 16, 2020 to reflect the following:

- **New!** COVIDTracer: A spreadsheet-based tool that allows state- and local-level public health officials and policy makers to compare between three different contact tracing/monitoring strategies.

Revisions were made on June 12, 2020 to reflect the following:

- New! Contact Tracing – CDC's Role and Approach 📕 [PDF – 2 pages]

CDC guidance for COVID-19 may be adapted by state and local health departments to respond to rapidly changing local circumstances.

Key Concepts

- **Trace and monitor contacts of infected people.** Notify them of their exposure.
- **Support the quarantine of contacts.** Help ensure the safe, sustainable and effective quarantine of contacts to prevent additional transmission.
- **Expand staffing resources.** Contact tracing in the US will require that states, tribes, localities and territorial establish large cadres of contact tracers.
- **Use digital tools.** Adoption and evaluation of digital tools may expand reach and efficacy of contact tracers.

CDC Resources

Resources for conducting contact tracing to stop the spread of COVID-19

Communication Resources

- New! Contact Tracing – CDC's Role and Approach   📕 [PDF – 2 pages]
- New! COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Toolkit for Health Departments
- COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Training

- COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training: Guidance, Resources, and Training Plan

Digital Tools

- Preliminary Criteria for the Evaluation of Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19   📕 [107 KB, 3 pages]
- Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19   📕 [164 KB, 1 pages]: This fact sheet describes different digital contact tracing tools for COVID-19 by primary purpose and primary user.

Guidance

- Health Departments: Interim guidance on developing a COVID-19 case investigation & contact tracing plan   📕 [56 pages]
    - Health Department Checklist: Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan   📕 [417 KB, 6 pages]
    - Daily Temperature/Symptom Log for Close Contacts   📕 [216 KB, 2 pages]
    - Self-Isolation and Self-Quarantine Home Assessment Checklist   📕 [219 KB, 2 pages]
    - Notification of Exposure – A Contact Tracer's Guide for COVID-19
    - Key Information to Collect During a Case Interview
    - Talking with the Patient – A Case Investigator's Guide to COVID-19
- Principles of Contact Tracing: CDC'S Basic principles of contact tracing to stop COVID-19 transmission.
    - Download PDF: COVID-19 Principles of Contact Tracing booklet   📕 [1 MB, 3 pages]
- **New!** COVIDTracer: A spreadsheet-based tool that allows state- and local-level public health officials and policy makers to compare between three different contact tracing/monitoring strategies.
- Handling Non-COVID-19 Public Health Activities that Require Face-to-Face Interaction with Clients in the Clinic and Field in the Current COVID-19 Pandemic: CDC guidance for the management of public health workers engaged in public health activities that require face-to-face interaction with clients in clinic and field settings.
- Community-Related Exposures: CDC's recommendations for community-related exposures.
- Travel-Associated Exposures: CDC's recommendations for travel-associated exposures.
- Case Investigation Workflow PDF 📕 | PNG 🖼
- Contact Tracing Workflow PDF 📕 | PNG 🖼

How COVID-19 Can Spread in a Community

Resources from Other Organizations

Other Federal Agencies

Several other federal agencies are also supporting this critical effort by providing:

- **National Institutes of Health**
  - **Published Journal Articles**
    - COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together ⬈
    - Epidemic Models of Contact Tracing: Systematic Review of Transmission Studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome ⬈
- **Department of Health and Human Services:** Quarantine- and Traveler-Related Activities, Including Records for Contact Tracing Investigation and Notification under 42 CFR Parts 70 and 71, HHS/CDC/CCID. ⬈

State and Local Governments

- How contact tracing works in Georgia (Georgia Department of Public Health)

Private Sector, Non-Governmental, and Academic Organizations

Various other organizations are also supporting this critical effort by providing:

Digital Tools

- **Cornell University:** Contact Tracing Mobile Apps for COVID-19: Privacy Considerations ⬈
- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security:** Review of mobile application technology to enhance contact tracing capacity for COVID-19 🅿 ⬈
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A privacy first approach to contact tracing:** A system for identifying people at risk of COVID-19 infection by using the Bluetooth signals sent between cell phones ⬈
- **TestAndTrace.com** ⬈ is an all-volunteer organization that compiles data and resources to inform the public, health leaders, and government leaders on why testing and tracing is important and how they can implement it. TestAndTrace is best known for compiling hiring and technology data about state-level contact tracing programs to show which states are best prepared to contained COVID-19.
- **State Approaches to Contact Tracing during the COVID-19 Pandemic** ⬈ The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is tracking how each state is expanding its contact tracing capacity to curb the COVID-19 pandemic and reopen its economy. NASHP's interactive map highlights each state's contact tracing program model, workforce, lead agencies, funding sources, and support technology. This information will be updated as programs evolve.

Guidance

- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, George Washington University, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials:** Contact Tracing Workforce Estimator ⬏
- **Governor's Association and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials:** Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors ⬏
- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials:** A Coordinated, National Approach to Scaling Public Health Capacity for Contact Tracing and Disease Investigation ⬏
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** US COVID-19 Contact Tracing Playbook ⬏
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** Contact Tracing Protocol 📄 [123 KB, 11 pages] ⬏
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** Criteria for determining when it is safe to loosen social distancing measures 📄 [103 KB, 2 pages] ⬏
- **Resolve to Save Lives:** Criteria for determining when strict mitigation measures must be reapplied 📄 [107 KB, 2 pages] ⬏
- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO):** A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US 📄 [653 KB, 16 pages] ⬏
- **Johns Hopkins School of Public Health:** Recommendations for local jurisdictions to slow and stop the transmission of COVID-19 ⬏
- **North Carolina Division of Public Health:** Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Contact Tracing Instructions for Non-healthcare Settings 📄 [149 KB, 2 pages] ⬏
- **National Association of County & City Health Officials:** NACCHO Position Statement on building COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Health Departments to Support Reopening American Society Safely 📄 [242 KB, 6 pages] ⬏
- **Partners in Health:** Partners in Health COVID-19 Guide: Testing, Contact Tracing and Community Management 📄 [2 MB, 23 pages] ⬏
- **American Enterprise Institute:** Steps to transition the COVID-19 response from mitigation to targeted interventions that stop transmission 📄 [5.7 MB, 20 pages] ⬏
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services:** This document is intended to guide the notification of close contacts of COVID-19 cases so that they may begin self-quarantine and symptom monitoring, as recommended 📄 [688 KB, 6 pages] ⬏
- **National Coalition of STD Directors:** Disease Intervention Specialist Certificate Video ⬏
- **HealthBegins:** A Guide to Community Based Workforce Principles for Contact Tracing 📄 ⬏

Training

- **National Network of Public Health Institutes:** NNPHI ⬏ mobilizes more than 45 member public health institutes with as well as 10 university-based regional training centers serving all ten HHS regions. Find training or join an online community to connect with public health practitioners about COVID response, recovery, and related issues like workforce resilience.
- **Association of State and Territorial Health Officials/National Coalition of STD Directors:** Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers ⬏ . An introductory online course for entry-level COVID-19 contact tracers, for use by health agencies in rapid training of new contact tracers. The training should be augmented by state/local specific training required to orient individuals to jurisdiction-specific protocols.
- ASPPH Curated List of COVID-19 Related Training Courses ⬏

🔍 Search for specific COVID-19 guidance across CDC web pages and documents