Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments

Resources for Conducting Contact Tracing to Stop the Spread of COVID-19

Updated Nov. 20, 2020   Print

What's New

- Answer the Call – Contact Tracing Video
- Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools
- Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)
- Contact Tracing: A Community Engagement Checklist for Health Departments 📄 [PDF – 3 pages] Español 📄

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Federal and state resources

Private sector and other non-governmental resources

Resources from CDC

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

CDC guidance documents

Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools

This guidance is intended to help administrators of K-12 schools plan for the development and implementation of COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts in their schools. This guidance highlights potential collaboration between health officials and K-12 school administrators to facilitate effective case investigation and contact tracing.

[Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)](#)
This guidance is intended to help administrators of IHEs plan for the development and implementation of COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts in their schools. This guidance highlights potential collaboration between health officials and IHE administrators to facilitate effective case investigation and contact tracing.

[Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Non-healthcare Workplaces: Information for Employers](#)
This document provides tips and considerations for how employers can partner with state, tribal, local, or territorial (STLT) health departments and work with their employees in these COVID-19 response efforts.

[Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan](#)
This CDC interim guidance document is intended to assist state, local, territorial and tribal health departments develop jurisdictional plans for the implementation and enhancement of COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts. Content will be updated as new information is available.

[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 to COVID-19.

[Travel-Associated Exposures](#)
CDC's recommendations for travel-associated exposures to COVID-19.

[CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again](#) [PDF – 62 pages]
This document briefly summarizes CDC's initiatives, activities, and tools in support of the Whole-of-Government response to COVID-19.

[Training, Evaluation, and Monitoring Guidance for Health Departments](#) [PDF – 24 pages]
This document will help supervisors and training leads to effectively develop and assess case investigators' interviewing skills.

CDC contact tracing implementation guides and tools

Technical Assistant Note: Transferring COVID-19 Contact Tracing Records via Epi-X

The document is a supplement to CDC's Health Departments: Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan. The resource provides information on transferring COVID-19 cases and contacts between health jurisdictions.

Principles of Contact Tracing

CDC's basic principles of contact tracing to stop COVID-19 transmission.

General Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Training Modules

Trainings for public health professionals interested in becoming a contact tracer or case investigator, as well as those who already serve in these roles and are seeking to improve their knowledge.

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

These sample training plans include training topics that may be helpful for state and local public health jurisdictions to consider when designing their own training plans for COVID-19 contact tracers, case investigators, and team leads.

CDC-funded Training for the COVID-19 Contact Tracing Workforce [2 pages]

The CDC COVID-19 Response and the CDC Division of STD Prevention are supporting two cooperative agreements to train the COVID-19 contact tracing workforce.

Notification of Exposure – A Contact Tracer's Guide for COVID-19

This is guide provides suggested communication approaches and steps for public health staff to create a script for contact tracers to tell people that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Key Information to Collect During a Case Interview

The purpose of this document is to provide key information that should be covered in the case interview.

Talking with the Patient – A Case Investigator's Guide to COVID-19

The intent of this document is to provide suggested communication strategies for COVID-19 case interviews.

Health Department Checklist: Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan [PDF – 6 pages]

This checklist is a supplement to CDC's Health Departments: Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan and is a tool that can assist health departments in developing a comprehensive plan.

Contact Tracing: A Community Engagement Checklist for Health Departments [PDF – 3 pages]

Keep these tips in mind when working with community organizations on contact tracing.
Español

[Self-Isolation and Self-Quarantine Home Assessment Checklist](#) 🔴 [PDF – 2 pages]
This checklist is to help case investigators and contact tracers in assessing a person's ability to safely isolate or quarantine at home, and the need for additional social support.

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[Daily Temperature/Symptom Log for Close Contacts](#) 🔴 [PDF – 2 pages]
This document is a daily temperature/symptom log for people who are considered close contacts to monitor their health.

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[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.

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[Case Investigator COVID-19 Response Job Description Template](#) 🔴
A job description template for health departments to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

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[Communicable Disease Investigator COVID-19 Response Job Description Template](#) 🔴
A job description template for health departments to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

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[Contact Tracer COVID-19 Response Job Description Template](#) 🔴
A job description template for health departments to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

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[Supervisor or Team Lead for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing COVID-19 Response Job Description Template](#) 🔴
A job description template for health departments to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

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[3 Key Steps to Take While Waiting for Your COVID-19 Test Results](#) 🔴 [PDF – 2 pages]
This resource will help explain what people should do while they are waiting for a COVID-19 test result to help them prepare for contact tracing.
[Español](#) 🔴 | [Chinese](#) 🔴 | [Korean](#) 🔴 | [Marshallese](#) 🔴 | [Vietnamese](#) 🔴

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[Case Investigation Workflow](#) 🔴 [PDF – 1 page]
This document is an infographic of the case investigation workflow for COVID-19.

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[Contact Tracing Workflow](#) 🔴 [PDF – 1 page]
This document is an infographic of the contact tracing workflow for COVID-19.

CDC communication resources

Answer the Call – Contact Tracing Video
This 1-minute long animation video with voiceover informs the public about contact tracing and why they should answer and respond to a call from a contact tracer.

Overview of Contact Tracing
A brief summary of contact tracing and what to expect

Contact Tracing – CDC's Role and Approach   [PDF – 2 pages]
This document provides an overview of CDC's role and approach to contact tracing for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Toolkit for Health Departments
This toolkit provides health departments with sample talking points, public service announcements, graphics, social media posts and more for communicating about contact tracing for COVID-19. Also available in Spanish.

Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Check out CDC's answers to commonly asked questions about COVID-19.

Contact Tracing Steps Infographic   [PDF – 2 pages]
This document is an infographic that explains the steps of contact tracing for people who are diagnosed with COVID-19 and people who may have been around someone with COVID-19.
Español | Chinese | Vietnamese | Korean | Marshallese

Find additional communication resources for health departments including toolkits, videos, print resources, and more.

CDC information on digital tools for COVID-19 contact tracing

Guidelines for the Implementation and Use of Digital Tools to Augment Traditional Contact Tracing ⬛ [PDF – 7 pages]
This document is an update and expansion on previously published evaluation criteria.

Preliminary Criteria for the Evaluation of Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19 ⬛ [PDF – 3 pages]
(Please reference the Guidelines for the Implementation and Use of Digital Tools to Augment Traditional Contact Tracing ⬛ [PDF – 7 pages] for updated information.) This document contains preliminary criteria that define minimum and preferred characteristics of digital contact tracing tools to help health departments overcome one or more obstacles in the COVID-19 contact tracing workflow.

Contact Tracing: Using Digital Tools ⬛ [2 pages]
This technology guide serves as a companion to the case investigation and contact tracing workflows and describes how and where technology can assist in the processes.

Refer to the Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan for information about digital contact tracing tools.

Resources from federal and state organizations

Content describing non-CDC tools on this site is provided for informational purposes only and is **not intended to indicate endorsement**, actual or implied, of the tools. Additionally, information on this site is provided "as is," for users to evaluate and make their own determination as to their effectiveness.

Guidelines and published journal articles

Guidelines for Opening Up America Again 🔗
Source: White House

Opening Up America Again: Testing Overview ⬛ 🔗
Source: White House

Opening Up America Again: Testing Blueprint ⬛ 🔗
Source: White House

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiative encourages counseling patients being tested for COVID-19

about isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing to slow the spread of the virus. The following materials support this initiative:

CMS Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) Response to the Public Health Emergency on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) [PDF – 18 pages]

Health care provider Q&A about reimbursement for counseling [PDF – 2 pages]

Provider-patient counseling talking points [PDF – 1 page]

Provider counseling checklist [PDF – 1 page]

COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together
Source: National Institutes of Health

Epidemic Models of Contact Tracing: Systematic Review of Transmission Studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome
Source: National Institutes of Health

System of records notices

Quarantine- and Traveler-Related Activities, Including Records for Contact Tracing Investigation and Notification under 42 CFR Parts 70 and 71, HHS/CDC/CCID
Source: Department of Health and Human Services

State and local governments

How contact tracing works in Georgia
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health

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[Provider-patient counseling talking points](#) 📄 [PDF – 1 page] ⬈

[Provider counseling checklist](#) 📄 [PDF – 1 page] ⬈

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together](#) ⬈
Source: National Institutes of Health

[Epidemic Models of Contact Tracing: Systematic Review of Transmission Studies of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome](#) ⬈
Source: National Institutes of Health

System of records notices

[Quarantine- and Traveler-Related Activities, Including Records for Contact Tracing Investigation and Notification under 42 CFR Parts 70 and 71, HHS/CDC/CCID](#) ⬈
Source: Department of Health and Human Services

State and local governments

[How contact tracing works in Georgia](#) ⬈
Source: Georgia Department of Public Health

Private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia

Guidance and tools

Contact Tracing Workforce Estimator ↗
Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, George Washington University, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials

A Coordinated, National Approach to Scaling Public Health Capacity for Contact Tracing and Disease Investigation ↗
Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors ↗
Source: Governor's Association and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

US COVID-19 Contact Tracing Playbook ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Protocol [PDF – 11 pages] ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Criteria for determining when it is safe to loosen social distancing measures [PDF – 2 pages] ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Criteria for determining when strict mitigation measures must be reapplied [PDF – 2 pages] ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Box it in Strategy ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Overview ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Staffing Calculator ↗
Source: Resolve to Save Lives

A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US [PDF – 16 pages] ↗
Source: Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Recommendations for local jurisdictions to slow and stop the transmission of COVID-19 ↗
Source: Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Contact Tracing Instructions for Non-healthcare Settings. [PDF – 2 pages] ↗
Source: North Carolina Division of Public Health

[NACCHO Position Statement on building COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Health Departments to Support Reopening American Society Safely](#) 📄 [PDF – 6 pages] ⬀
Source: National Association of County & City Health Officials

[Partners in Health COVID-19 Guide: Testing, Contact Tracing and Community Management](#) 📄 [PDF – 23 pages] ⬀
Source: Partners in Health

[National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening](#) 📄 [PDF – 20 pages] ⬀
Source: American Enterprise Institute

[COVID-19 Contact Notification /Information](#) 📄 [PDF – 6 pages] ⬀
Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services

[NACCHO COVID Response Effort](#) ⬀
Source: National Association of County and City Health Officers

Training

[Live Searches of Contact Tracing Training](#) ⬀
Source: Public Health Foundation

[Customized COVID-19 Contact Tracing Curriculum](#) ⬀
Source: Public Health Foundation

[National Network of Public Health Institutes](#) ⬀
Source: National Network of Public Health Institutes

[Making Contact: A Training for COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#) ⬀
Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials/National Coalition of STD Directors

[ASPPH Curated List of COVID-19 Related Training Courses](#) ⬀
Source: Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health

[ASTHO COVID-19 Resources](#) ⬀ —Association of State and Territorial Health Officers
Source: Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

[Disease Intervention Specialist Certificate Video](#) ⬀
Source: National Coalition of STD Directors

[COVID-19 Command Center](#) ⬀
Source: National Coalition of STD Directors

[Contagious Conversations: Episode 15: A Crash Course in Contact Tracing](#) ⬀
Source: CDC Foundation

[Contagious Conversations: Episode 16: Raising Your Voice](#) ⬀

Source: CDC Foundation

Information on digital tools for COVID-19 contact tracing

Steps for Public Health to Plan for the Use of the Apple|Google Exposure Notification Framework: A White Paper 📄 ↗
Source: Public Health Informatics Institute

Digital Tools for Contact Tracing Tool Assessment Report 📄 ↗
Source: Public Health Informatics Institute

Contact Tracing Mobile Apps for COVID-19: Privacy Considerations ↗
Source: Cornell University

Review of mobile application technology to enhance contact tracing capacity for COVID-19 📄 [PDF – 1 page] ↗
Source: Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Center for Health Security

A system for identifying people at risk of COVID-19 infection by using the Bluetooth signals sent between cell phones ↗
Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A privacy first approach to contact tracing

TestAndTrace.com ↗
Source: Test and Trace

State Approaches to Contact Tracing during the COVID-19 Pandemic ↗
Source: National Academy for State Health Policy

Search All COVID-19 Guidance

Find specific COVID-19 guidance from all CDC web pages and documents

Search All Guidance

Last Updated Nov. 20, 2020
Content source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases