HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments

Updated May 11, 2020 Print

What's New

- Answer the Call - Contact Tracing Video (Español)
- Prioritizing Case Investigations and Contact Tracing in Jurisdictions with Limited Resources
- Prioritizing COVID-19 Contact Tracing - Mathematical Modeling Methods and Findings
- Answer the Call - Contact Tracing Video
- Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education
- Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education (Video)
- Contact Tracing: A Community Engagement Toolkit for Health Departments (PDF – 3 pages) Español

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Guidance documents
Contact tracing implementation
Communication resources
Digital tools for contact tracing
Training
Federal and state resources
Private sector and other non-governmental resources

Resources from CDC

CDC guidance for COVID-19 may be adopted 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 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 for 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 in developing a plan to mitigate COVID-19 virus transmission through case investigation and contact tracing efforts. Content will be updated as new information is available.

Interim Guidance for Contact Tracing in Congregate Settings
CDC's basic principles of contact tracing to stop COVID-19 transmission.

General Contact Tracing and Case Investigation Training Modules
Training for public health professionals interested in becoming a contact tracer or case investigator, or those who already serve in these roles and are seeking to improve their knowledge.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training: Guidance, Resources, and Training Plan
This training plan provides guidance and resources for CDC, other federal, 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 Partner 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 document provides contact tracers with suggested talking points 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 Parents—A Case Investigation's Guide to COVID-19
The purpose of this document is to provide suggested communication strategies for COVID-19 case interviews.

Health Departments Checklist: Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan (PDF – 3 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.

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training: Guidance, Resources, and Training Plan
This training plan provides guidance and resources for CDC, other federal, state and local public health jurisdictions to consider when designing their own training plans for COVID-19 contact tracers, case investigators, and team leads.

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COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training Enhancements Checklist for Health Departments (PDF – 1 page)
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.

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.

COVID Exam
A spreadsheet-based tool that allows state- and local-level public health officials and policy makers to compare between different contact tracing/monitoring strategies.

Case Investigation COVID-19 Response Job Description Template ★
A job description template for health department to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

Communicable Disease Investigator COVID-19 Response Job Description Template ★
A job description template for health department to quickly scale up their staff to response to COVID-19.

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.

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.

5 Key Decisions, One Whole Planning Tool (Zoom COVID-19 Tool, Results) ★ (PDF – 1 page)
This document is a tool that can be used to decide what they are trying for in COVID-19 tracer results to help them prepare for contact tracing.
Español ★ | Chinese ★ | Korean ★ | Marshallese ★ | Vietnamese ★

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

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

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CDC communication resources

Answer the Call - Contact Tracing Video
This 5 minute long animation video with voiceover informs the public about contact tracing and why it is important, what to expect and what people should do when they are contacted.
Español

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, and social media posts and more for communicating about contact tracing for COVID-19 to the public.
Español

Contact Tracing Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
Check out CDC's answers to common questions about contact tracing for COVID-19.

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

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

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CDC information on digital tools for COVID-19 contact tracing

Guidance for the Implementation and Use of Digital Tools to Augment Traditional Contact Tracing (PDF – 4 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 *Guidance for the Implementation and Use of Digital Tools to Augment Traditional Contact Tracing* document for the most recent guidance. These preliminary criteria are for the minimum and preferred characteristics of digital contact tracing tools to help health departments overcome one or more obstacles in the COVID-19 contact tracing enterprise.

Contact Tracing: Using Digital Tools ★ (2 pages)
This technology series is a companion to the case investigation and contact tracing workflows and describes how and where technology can assist in the process.

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

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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 the tools 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 ★ (1 Source) Whole House

Opening Up America Again: Testing Strategies ★ (1 Source) Whole House

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) initiative encourages nursing 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 – 1 page)

Health care providers Q&A about reimbursement for contact tracing ★ (PDF – 1 page)

Provider patients counseling talking points ★ (PDF – 1 page)

Provider counseling checklist ★ (PDF – 1 page)

COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together ★ (1 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 ★ (1 Source) National Institutes of Health

System of records notices

Quarantine and Travelers Related Activities, Including Records for Contact Tracing Investigation and Notification under 42 CFR Parts 70 and 71, HHS/CDC 09-25 ★ (1 Source) Department of Health and Human Services

State and local governments

How contact tracing works in Georgia ★ (1 Source) Georgia Department of Public Health

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State and local governments

How contact tracing works in Georgia ★ (1 Source) Georgia Department of Public Health

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Private sector, non-governmental organizations and academia

Guidance and tools

Contact Tracing Workforce Estimator ★ (1 Source) Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 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 ★ (1 Source) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Roadmap to Recovery: A Public Health Guide for Governors ★ (1 Source) Governor's Association and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

US COVID-19 Contact Tracing Playbook ★ (1 Source) Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Through ★ (PDF – 1 page) Resolve to Save Lives

Criteria for determining when it is safe to loosen social distancing measures ★ (PDF – 2 pages)

Criteria for determining when strict mitigation measures must be reopened ★ (PDF – 2 pages) Resolve to Save Lives

Rev A in Strategy ★ (1 Source) Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Overview ★ (1 Source) Resolve to Save Lives

Contact Tracing Staffing Calculator ★ (1 Source) Resolve to Save Lives

A National Plan to Enable Comprehensive COVID-19 Case Finding and Contact Tracing in the US ★ (PDF – 9 pages) The 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 ★ (PDF – 3 pages) Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Contact Tracing: Instructions for Non-Healthcare Settings ★ (PDF – 2 pages) North Carolina Division of Public Health

NACCHO Position Statement on Scaling COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Health Departments to Support Reopening Economic Sectors Safely ★ (PDF – 3 pages) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials/National Association of County & City Health Officials

Partners in Health COVID-19 Guide: Testing, Contact Tracing and Community Management ★ (PDF – 33 pages) Partners in Health

National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Recovery ★ (PDF – 39 pages) American Enterprise Institute

COVID-19 Contact Notification Information ★ (PDF – 4 pages) Texas Department of Health Services

NACCHO COVID Response Effort ★ (1 Source) National Association of County and City Health Officials

Training

Live Searches of Contact Tracing ★ (1 Source) Public Health Foundation

Customized COVID-19 Contact Tracing Curriculum ★ (1 Source) Public Health Foundation

National Network of Public Health Institutes ★ (1 Source) National Network of Public Health Institutes

Training Courses for COVID-19 Contact Tracers ★ (1 Source) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials/National Coalition of STD Directors

AVPN Contact Lab COVID-19 Related Training Courses ★ (1 Source) Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health

ASTHO COVID-19 Resources ★ (1 Resources) ★ (1 Resources) ★ (1 Resources) Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Disease Intervention Specialist Training Video ★ (1 Source) National Coalition of STD Directors

COVID-19 Contact Tracing ★ (1 Source) Resolve to Save Lives

Contagious Conversations: Episode 15, A Short Course in Contact Tracing ★ (1 Source) CDC Foundation

Contagious Conversations: Episode 16, Raising Your Voice ★ (1 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 ★ (Whole Page) (PDF – 2 pages) Texas Public Health Informatics Institute

Digital Tools for Contact Tracing Scan Rapid Review Report ★ (PDF – 1 page) Texas Public Health Informatics Institute

Contact Tracing Mobile Apps for COVID-19: Privacy Considerations ★ (PDF – 1 page) Cornell University

Review of mobile application technology to enhance contact tracing capacity for COVID-19 ★ (PDF – 1 page) The 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 from smartphones ★ (1 Source) Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Massachusetts General Hospital

TraceTogether.com ★ (1 Source) Twitter and Trace

Stanford Medicine's Contact Tracing During the COVID-19 Pandemic ★ (1 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

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Contact source: National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (Division of Viral Diseases)