

COVID-19 Contact Tracing: How it works

Transcript

You may have heard that contact tracing is one way to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

But what is contract tracing?

Contact tracing is finding people who may be infectious or contagious with COVID-19 – and may not know it – and telling them to stay home and away from others so they don't infect anyone else.

After someone has been exposed to COVID-19, they can start spreading it to other people anywhere from 2 to 14 days later. During this time, people may not feel sick but they could still pass COVID-19 on to others.

This is how more and more people get infected.

Contact tracing is one way to stop this cycle.

This is how it works:

The Minnesota Department of Health is notified of every person who tests positive for COVID-19, just like with measles. If you test positive for COVID-19, you can expect a call from a COVID-19 case interviewer. Sometimes they are also called contact tracers. Case interviewers work for state, local, or tribal public health departments.

Case interviewers call to give you information about COVID-19, ask you about your health, and answer your questions. They will first read you something called a Tennesen warning. This is information about privacy and asks if you are okay with sharing your health information. Your information cannot be shared with anyone without your permission.

They also ask about who you had close contact with starting a few days before you tested positive. In general, anyone that has spent more than 15 minutes within a close distance with someone who has COVID-19 is called a contact. The case interviewer will help you figure out who is considered a contact.

Case interviewers can then call your contacts and talk with them about getting tested. They will not share your name or any other personal information with your contacts without your permission. They tell them to stay home for 14 days, counting from their last close contact with you. If they stay home, their germs stay home too.

Contact tracing only works with your help.

If a case interviewer calls you, be sure to answer your phone. If you miss their call, they will leave a message. Be sure to call them back.

Case interviewers always tell you who they are, who they work for, and that they are calling about COVID-19. They never ask about your immigration status, for money, or for your bank, credit card, social security numbers.

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING: HOW IT WORKS TRANSCRIPT

If you prefer not to speak in English, let the case interviewer know. They will get a different interviewer who speaks your language or use a phone interpreter.

Interviewers also share information with you – things like how to protect the people you live with and how to get food, medicine, and other things you may need to stay safe at home.

Together, with help of contact tracing and case interviewers, we can slow the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for doing your part.

Minnesota Department of Health
Communications Office
PO Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-4989
health.communications@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

10/19/20

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4989.