1.   What is Contact Tracing?

Contact tracing is an important step in slowing the spread of COVID-19. The contact tracing team may contact those who have tested positive for COVID-19. They'll alert anyone they may have exposed, keeping names confidential. They'll check symptoms, offer testing, and discuss the next steps like self-quarantine and treatment.

By finding spread patterns quickly, we slow infection and help avoid outbreaks.

2.   What does it mean to be a Close Contact?

A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour period. By identifying close contacts, the spread of COVID-19 can be contained.

3.   Who performs contact tracing for the Alameda County Public Health Department?

The contact tracing team includes a Team Clinician, Team Lead, and Contact Tracing Staff. This team of public health professionals and community partners work together to connect individuals to appropriate support and medical services as needed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

4.   What is the purpose of a contact tracing interview?

The goal of a contact tracing interview is to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Contact tracers conduct conversations with confidentiality, care, and cultural humility to provide guidance, resources, and support for isolation and quarantine.

5.   What information can contact tracers provide?

Contact tracers will discuss quarantine or isolation to limit further exposure, quarantine housing if required, and referrals for other services and resources that may assist with isolation and quarantine.

6.   How is privacy protected through the contact tracing process?

Contact tracers receive training on the privacy of protected information that emphasizes privacy and confidentiality of personal health information. Contact tracers also sign a confidentiality agreement. The information gathered will only be shared with Public Health officials, and cannot be shared with law enforcement, immigration, or for business purposes.

7.   What happens if a contact tests positive for COVID-19?

Contacts may receive testing for coronavirus through their medical provider or an Alameda County testing site (www.acphd.org/2019-ncov/testing.aspx). If a contact receives a positive test result for COVID-19, then they may also receive a more in-depth case interview to discuss symptoms and identify their close contacts.

8. **What should I do if I think I have been exposed to someone with COVID-19?**

   If you believe you have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19, please contact your medical provider to inquire about COVID-19 testing or visit any of the free-testing sites listed on the public health department's website. Depending on your vaccination and symptom status, you may need to quarantine. For more information, please see https://covid-19.acgov.org/isolation-quarantine

   Alameda County Public Health Department will only reach out to people who tested positive for COVID-19 and others who are identified as close contacts.

9. **I received a text from Alameda County Public Health Department. Is it legitimate?**

   In addition to calling Cases and Contacts, Alameda County utilizes an automated system created by California Department of Public Health to collect contact tracing information. Please see https://covid-19.acgov.org/legitimate-contact

Colleen Chawla – Agency Director
Kimi Watkins-Tartt – Director
Nicholas Moss, MD – Health Officer

Contact

Public Health Department:
(510) 267-8000 Main Line

COVID-19 Information:
(510) 268-2101

www.acphd.org