COVID-19 Contact Tracing 101

Contact tracing identifies people who might have been exposed to another person known to have COVID-19. Exposed people are called contacts. Contacts are at risk of getting infected themselves. Contact tracing helps to slow the spread of COVID-19 by having contacts self-quarantine away from others. Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) has performed contact tracing for many years for diseases like foodborne illnesses, measles, and tuberculosis.

An infected person's symptoms begin and home isolation period starts.

If you test positive, TCHD will be notified by the state of your positive test result. TCHD will call you and perform a contact investigation.

TCHD case investigators will call and ask for a list of the people you had contact with while you were contagious.

TCHD contact tracers will reach out to your contacts to contain the spread of the virus.

TCHD will ask a contact to self-quarantine and stay away from others for 14 days starting from the day they were possibly exposed. Monitor for symptoms and notify TCHD if symptoms develop.

TCHD will NOT:
- Ask for your Social Security Number
- Request any Credit Card Information
- Ask about your residency or immigration status
- Expose an individual's health or personal identifying information to the public, the media, employers or others without the individual's permission, or except as authorized by law

Some questions you or your contacts may be asked are:
- Can you verify your name, address and date of birth?
- Did you develop symptoms since you were exposed?
- What are your symptoms and when did they start?
- What is your occupation?

During self-quarantine you should:
- Stay at home and away from others
- Take your temperature twice a day
- Monitor for symptoms
- Wear a cloth face covering if you need to be around others

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