

# COVID-19

# CONTACT TRACING



Individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 may be at a higher risk of becoming infected and infecting others. The Imperial County Public Health Department case investigation team conducts contact tracing to identify, test, and provide isolation guidance for those who are at high risk. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) defines a close contact as anyone who has been within 6 feet of a person infected with a virus or COVID-19 for a prolonged period, as well as those who have had direct contact with the infected person's secretions such as coughs and sneezes. A close contact could be household members, coworkers, healthcare provider, etc.

## CONTACT TRACING PROCESS



Health Department contacts the person confirmed with COVID-19 and conducts interview.



Health Department follows up with close contacts of a confirmed case.



Increased efforts are focused on those at highest risk such as contacts in nursing homes, jails, or other congregate settings, as well as work settings to ensure that people who have had prolonged exposure are tested and isolated from others.

## HIGH RISK CONTACT vs LOW RISK CONTACT



**High Risk Contact** with symptoms is issued a quarantine order



**Self-quarantine** at home for 14 days minimum and **Self-monitor** for duration of quarantine period.



**Contact displays no symptoms:** The patient is released from quarantine, they can go back to their daily lives as normal, as they no longer pose a risk to others.



**Low Risk Contact** doesn't show symptoms



**Self-monitor** and maintain **social distance** from others (at least 6 feet) until **14 days** after their last exposure, in case they also become ill.



**Contact shows no symptoms:** Contact can discontinue self-monitoring for symptoms

Contacts who develop symptoms should promptly isolate themselves and contact their medical provider to determine the need for medical care.



To protect patient privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They are not told the identity of the patient who may have exposed them.



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