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Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Case investigation/Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a simple and proven process that has been utilized for nearly 500 years to stop and control the spread of infectious diseases throughout the world. When a vaccine or treatment is not available, contact tracing is the most effective tool that public health has at their disposal. It involves alerting people that have been in contact with an infected person and preventing them from spreading the disease to others. Contact tracing requires having a properly trained staff that are effective working with the public.

The first step in contact tracing is reaching out to a confirmed case and establishing their current status. We want to know if the patient is stable and able to isolate. If the patient needs assistance or certain services, we can help them out with that. The next step is to get a history of where the individual went and who they interacted with while symptomatic and two days prior to that. Contact tracers generally concentrate on interactions that are within 6ft and longer than 15 minutes. Personal information that is collected during a case investigation is kept confidential and not shared unless the confirmed case gives us explicit permission to do so.

Once the contact tracer has established a list of contacts, they will reach out and alert them that they were in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19. The contact will be asked to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure to the confirmed case and monitor for symptoms. Symptomatic cases are asked to get tested. Contacts that test negative are still asked to complete the 14-day quarantine due to the incubation nature of the virus. If the contact needs assistance or services to help with the quarantine, we can assist them with that. For each day of the quarantine, the contact will receive a daily check asking them if they are symptomatic and if they need any assistance.