What you need to know about:
COVID-19 + CONTACT TRACING

Q: What is contact tracing?

A: Contact tracing is a tool used by Public Health to quickly identify people who have been exposed to an infectious disease (COVID-19, measles, Ebola, TB, STDs) and alert their contacts of their exposure.

Q: Why is contact tracing done?

A: The goal of contact tracing is to help prevent the further spread of infection, to identify hotspots of infection, and to protect friends, families and communities from potential infection.

Q: Is contact tracing confidential?

A: Confidentiality is critical to the success of contact tracing. Contact tracing in Georgia is 100% confidential — the identity of the person who tests positive and the information on those who might have been exposed will not be shared. Georgia's contact tracing does not use technology to track movements.

Q: How is contact tracing done?

A: Trained public health staff work with people diagnosed with COVID-19 to help them recall everyone who they have had close contact with while they were infectious. Public health staff then alert these exposed individuals (contacts) as quickly as possible to prevent additional spread of the disease.

Q: How will contacts be notified?

A: A trained DPH staff member will notify the contact by text or phone that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and encourage them to self-quarantine to prevent the spread of the disease.

Q: What are contacts asked to do?

A: Contacts must stay at home and maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) from others they live with, including animals, until 14 days after their last known exposure. Contacts should check their temperature twice daily and monitor for symptoms:

- Fever • Cough • Chills • Muscle Pain
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Sore Throat • New loss of taste or smell

If contacts develop symptoms, they should call their local health department to schedule an appointment for a COVID-19 test, seek medical care if needed, or call 911 if there is a medical emergency.

Q: Is there a way to report my symptoms electronically?

A: There is a web-based portal that allows identified contacts to easily answer questions about their health and their symptoms related to COVID-19. Contacts will receive a daily text message for 14 days reminding them to report if they have symptoms through the monitoring tool, and they will also receive information about what to do if they are or become sick. Individuals who do not report daily will be contacted by DPH. For people who do not wish to use the online system or receive texts, they can call DPH directly to report their symptoms.

Q: How has contact tracing been used previously?

A: Contact tracing was used during the 2014 Ebola virus outbreak, as well as in the SARS outbreak in 2003. Contact tracing is also used to combat sexually transmitted disease, measles and tuberculosis.

For more information about contact tracing:

dph.georgia.gov or call 1-866-PUB-HLTH
(1-866-782-4584)

DPH
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH