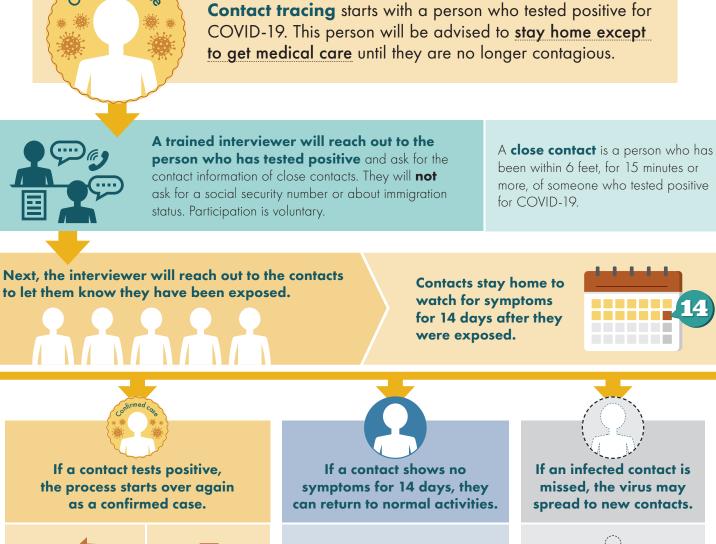# COVID-19 What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing is a way to identify people who may have COVID-19 so they can avoid spreading it to others. It helps us track and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
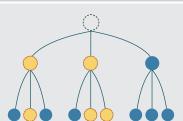
Confirmed case

Contact tracing starts with a person who tested positive for COVID-19. This person will be advised to <u>stay home except to get medical care</u> until they are no longer contagious.

A trained interviewer will reach out to the **person who has tested positive** and ask for the contact information of close contacts. They will **not** ask for a social security number or about immigration status. Participation is voluntary.

A **close contact** is a person who has been within 6 feet, for 15 minutes or more, of someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Next, the interviewer will reach out to the contacts to let them know they have been exposed.

Contacts stay home to watch for symptoms for 14 days after they were exposed.

14

If a contact tests positive, the process starts over again as a confirmed case.

Confirmed case

They continue working with a public health professional to identify their contacts.

If there were no contacts, the process stops.

If a contact shows no symptoms for 14 days, they can return to normal activities.

14

If an infected contact is missed, the virus may spread to new contacts.

Effective contact tracing depends on everyone's participation. If public health calls you, we hope you'll answer.

Learn more about contact tracing and Washington state's efforts at doh.wa.gov/ContactTracing.