The Health Department's Response When Someone Tests Positive for COVID-19

We conduct contact tracing and work with any locations the person visited while infectious, like a school or workplace, to contain the spread of the virus. Every situation is unique, but the Health Department generally follows these steps. Some situations may require actions that differ from this chart.

Someone gets a test for COVID-19 and we receive the lab result.*

**Negative**

No action is taken.

**Positive**

The Health Department starts contact tracing.

Contact tracers reach out to the person with a positive test result to provide guidance and ask about symptoms, activities, and who they may have been in contact with while they were infectious.

Contact tracers reach out to people who had close contact to provide guidance on quarantine and testing.

Contact tracers don’t call people who have not had close contact with someone with COVID-19 while they were infectious.

People with COVID-19 and their close contacts are asked if they want to be enrolled in Sara Alert, a daily symptom monitoring tool.

Contact tracers will assess the risk of transmission at all locations the person visited while infectious.

Contact tracers notify the places where there was a risk of transmission. A team will work with these locations to assess the ongoing risk and talk about next steps. The team may also make recommendations on who should get tested.

The team monitors the situation until the period of concern is over. Generally, this is 14 days when there is one person with COVID-19, or 28 days for outbreak situations.

Locations will not be notified if contact tracers did not identify a risk of transmission there.

*Health care providers should report positive results to 802-863-7240.

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