

# CSU'S CONTACT TRACING PROCESS

## CASE IDENTIFIED

Someone who:

- tested positive,
- potentially was exposed, or
- reported COVID-like symptoms

CSU individuals should use the daily symptom checker:

<https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu/daily-symptom-checker/>

## CASE INVESTIGATION

Case investigator gathers information about suspected or confirmed infection and works with person to recall everyone with whom they had **close contact\*** while potentially infectious.

## CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracers reach out to contacts (those who have been in **close contact\*** with the potentially ill person) and gather info about the nature of the contact and potential exposure.

## CONTACT SUPPORT

Contacts receive education, info, and support. If they meet "**close contact\***" criteria, they receive info about physical distancing, self-monitoring, and their **potential to spread the virus to others** even if they are asymptomatic.

*\*Definition of a close contact: A close contact is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated. They should stay home, maintain social distancing, and self-monitor until 14 days from the last date of exposure.*

### What are case investigators?

Case investigators locate and interview those:

- Testing positive for,
- Potentially exposed to, or
- Showing symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

They assist them in arranging self-isolation if the person tests positive, or quarantine if they potentially have been exposed. They also work with the person to identify close contacts who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

### Contact tracing:

Contact tracing is essential to identify those who have been in close contact with known and potential cases of COVID-19, in order to slow and stop the transmission of the virus.

### What are contact tracers?

Contact tracers warn contacts of potential exposure; assess their symptoms and risk; and explain next steps, including connecting them with testing and (if necessary) care.

Contact tracers follow CDC principles and have knowledge of:

- Patient confidentiality;
- COVID-19 presentation and behavior;
- Available social and medical support;
- When to refer case to other resources;
- Interviewing, including basic crisis counseling;
- Interpersonal skills and cultural sensitivity; and
- How to locate those difficult to reach or reluctant to engage in conversation.

### Data management and technology:

Case investigation, contact tracing, contact follow-up and monitoring are linked with both county and university testing.

CSU shares software with Larimer County, which includes sharing positive test results, notes about contact tracing interviews, and follow up.

*For more information regarding CSU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, visit:*

[covidrecovery.colostate.edu](https://covidrecovery.colostate.edu)  
[fall2020.colostate.edu](https://fall2020.colostate.edu)

**COVID-19 RECOVERY**



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