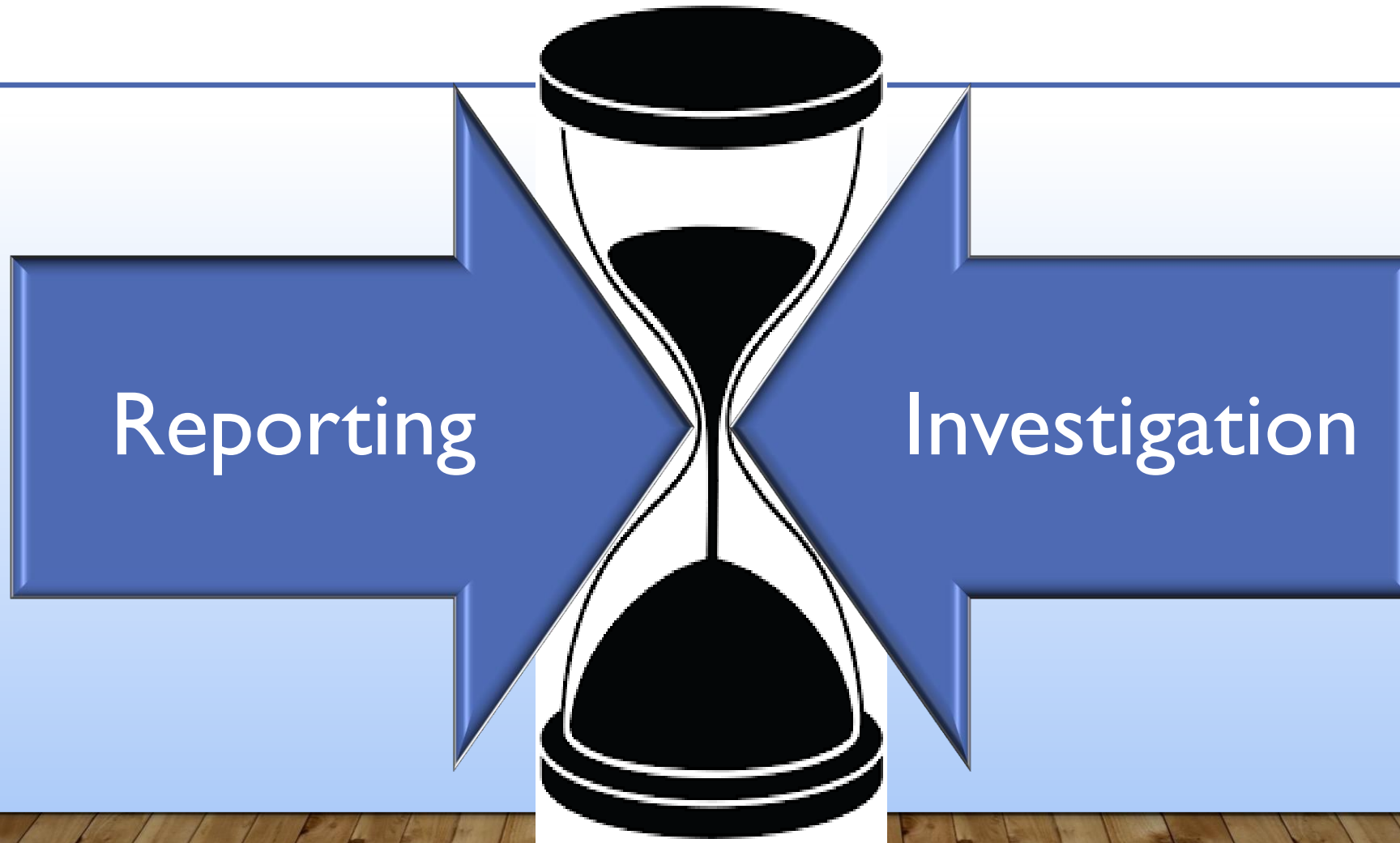


COVID-19 INVESTIGATIONS AND CONTACT TRACING

HOW DO WE COLLECT COVID DATA?



REPORTING



Providers

Online Morbidity Report
Form
Fax
Phone

*Coming soon – ECR
directly from EMR



Laboratories

ELR-Electronic
Laboratory Reporting

Fax

Phone



Pharmacies

TB Drug Dispensing
Report



Public

Phone
Website
Self reports



Vital Records

Birth certificates
Death certificates

COVID-19 CASE INVESTIGATIONS

- Immediately identify and interview people with SARS CoV-2 infections and COVID-19 (i.e., disease)
- Require isolation of those who are infected
- Confirmed cases receive text notice within 24 hours of report
- Immediate Exclusion from occupation/school
- Collect important surveillance information/data
 - Underlying conditions
 - Demographics, race/ethnicity
 - Symptom onset, ongoing symptom
- Medical Record Review
- Cluster/Outbreak Investigations
- Contact Tracing



CONTACT TRACING IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO THE OVERALL COVID-19 DISEASE INVESTIGATION AND INTERVENTION

Identifying contacts and ensuring they do not interact with others is critical to protect communities from further spread. If communities are unable to effectively isolate patients and ensure contacts can separate themselves from others, rapid community spread of COVID-19 is likely to increase to the point that strict mitigation strategies will again be needed to contain the virus.

CONTACT TRACING-WHAT IS REQUIRED

Contact tracing is a specialized skill. To be done effectively, it requires people with the training, supervision, and access to social and medical support for patients and contacts. Requisite knowledge and skills for contact tracers include, but are not limited to:

- An understanding of patient confidentiality, including the ability to conduct interviews without violating confidentiality (e.g., to those who might overhear their conversations)
- Understanding of the medical terms and principles of exposure, infection, infectious period, potentially infectious interactions, symptoms of disease, pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic infection
- Excellent and sensitive interpersonal, cultural sensitivity, and interviewing skills such that they can build and maintain trust with patients and contacts
- Basic skills of crisis counseling, and the ability to confidently refer patients and contacts for further care if needed
- Resourcefulness in locating patients and contacts who may be difficult to reach or reluctant to engage in conversation
- Understanding of when to refer individuals or situations to medical, social, or supervisory resources
- Cultural competency appropriate to the local community

CASE INVESTIGATION CONSIDERATIONS

- *CDC close contact definition: Someone who was within 6ft of the index case for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24- hour period.*
- *****This guidance has changed frequently as new information has been made available. Please refer to the CDC website for the most up to date definition.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/contact-tracing.html>

Considerations during interview:

- Household members, coworkers, any persons with potential close contact
- Dates are needed for each exposure setting outside of the client's home: Employment site, Place(s) of worship, social sites, bars, restaurants, movie theater, sporting events, conferences, etc
- Any travel outside of Clark County during contact tracing period
 - For flights, collect flight number, airline, route, date, and seat information.



CONTACT NOTIFICATION AND EDUCATION

- Determine and document exposure period for each contact identified
- All contacts receive an automated text notification
- Text notice gives guidance on quarantine end date with link to available resources
- Educate vaccinated contacts on need monitor for symptoms and quarantine if needed.
- Ensure contacts have access to testing and support

STAFF SHORTAGES, CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- **Not all contacts are required to quarantine at home if asymptomatic, multiple guidelines MUST be understood by contact tracers**
- **Training for contact tracers is never over. As the pandemic has evolved, we have been able to refine how we provide support to the community**
- **Ability to adapt involves gauging when to increase/decrease work force**
- **We continue to educate staff on factors such as emerging VOC (Variants of Concern)**
- **Supporting community partners by having jump teams that focus on specific needs**

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- CDC guidelines change frequently, therefore anyone that is doing contact tracing must stay up to date on the CDC changes
- Disease comprehension is VERY important. Notification of disease and exposures to disease is often followed by many questions and concerns. Understanding and providing education about symptoms, transmission, and prevention is a requirement for this work
- SNHD's capacity and processes change frequently, therefore it is important for anyone working in contact tracing or in the COVID-19 Response be flexible and willing to adjust as needed
 - Testing and workforce capacity can change quickly which impacts contact tracing

REFERENCES

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- CDC Contact Tracing : Part of a Multipronged Approach to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>
 - CDC Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
 - SNHD OEDS Investigation protocol Last updated 04.20.2020
 - Located here:
 - \\cchd.org\odsdfs\$\Apps\COVID-19 Response\Operations\Information and Guidance\Traveler and Contacts Documents
 - Guidance on people in U.S. Communities Exposed to a Person with Known or Suspected COVID-19, other than Health Workers or other Critical Infrastructure Workers:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
 - Guidance for healthcare personnel with potential exposure:
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>
 - Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce:
 - <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>