

WHAT IS CONTACT TRACING?



Contact tracing is the process used to **identify those who come into contact with people who have tested positive** for many contagious diseases – such as measles, HIV, and COVID-19 – in order to warn them, provide guidance, and offer support.

Contact tracing is a **long-standing practice in New Jersey and around the world.**

WHY IS CONTACT TRACING IMPORTANT FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES?



When someone tests positive for COVID-19, they may have spread the virus to others **without knowing it**. Those individuals could now be infected and putting their loved ones at risk.

Contact tracing is **critical to breaking the chain of transmission, slowing community spread, and reopening the economy.**

WHY IS CONTACT TRACING IMPORTANT FOR REOPENING?



Keeping New Jersey's economy open depends on our collective ability to quickly contain and eliminate outbreaks of COVID-19.

By successfully contact tracing individuals who may be positive for COVID-19, public health measures such as economic lockdowns can be prevented.

HOW DOES CONTACT TRACING WORK?



1 CASE INTERVIEW...

...Local Health Departments reach out to everyone who tests positive for COVID-19



If you test positive for COVID-19, your Local Health Department will call to provide information and offer connection to local support services.

They will also ask about your “close contacts”, including how to reach them:

- Close contacts are anyone who was within six feet of you for more than 10 minutes, starting two days before you starting having symptoms

2 CONTACT NOTIFICATION...

...to alert them of potential exposure



Contact tracers – trained professionals from the community – will then call your contacts. Contacts are provided information related to:

- Understanding their risk
- How they can monitor for illness
- How to prevent spreading the virus (even if they do not feel ill)
- Where to get tested
- Local support services

3 FOLLOW-UP...

...and provide support with testing and quarantine



For the next 14 days, contacts will receive daily follow-ups, either through text messaging or phone calls, to monitor their health and further connect them with the support and resources they may need.

Contact tracers will collect minimum data (only what is needed to keep your close contacts safe), use it for limited purposes (stopping the spread of COVID-19), and restrict who it is shared with (health care officials).

Personal information is NEVER be released to contacts

Preliminary, pre-decisional, and deliberative. Based on input provided by State agency leaders and staff, to date, and subject to change. Content is descriptive only and is not meant to constitute legal, clinical, nor policy advice.

Protections for employees

- New Jersey has passed legislation that prohibits an employer from terminating or refusing to reinstate an employee who has, or is likely to have, an infectious disease which requires the employee to miss time at work
- An employee who requests or takes time off from work, based on the recommendation of a public health professional, may not be terminated or refused reinstatement if the employee is likely to infect others in the workplace
- An employee who is advised to quarantine is able to:
 - Use 80 hours of Federal Emergency Paid Sick Leave
 - Use accrued Earned Sick Leave

Please visit the New Jersey Department of Labor website for the latest information: <https://www.nj.gov/labor/>

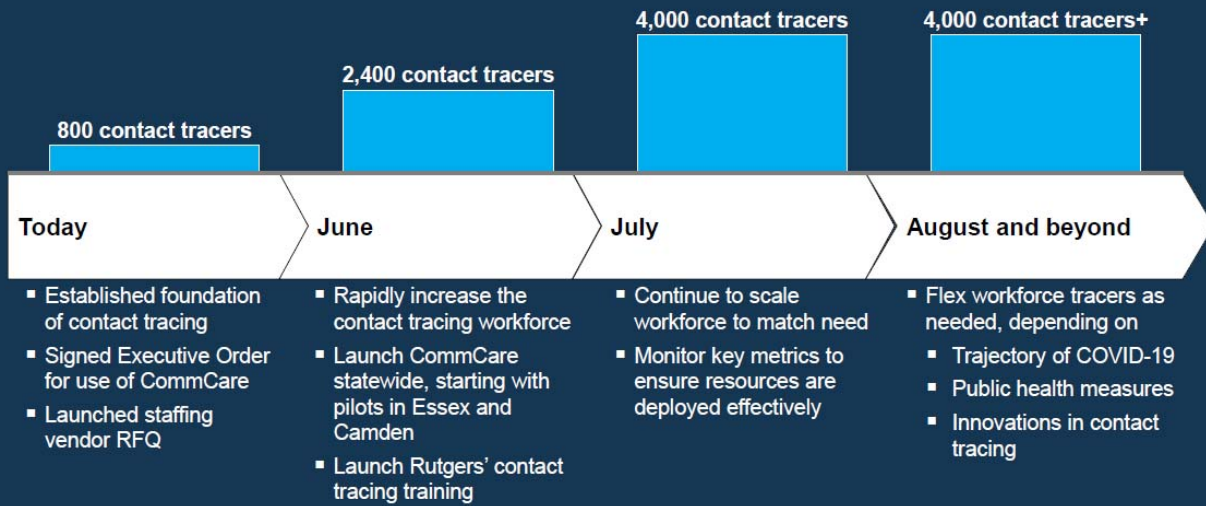
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Social support

- In addition to employment protections, contacts may also be eligible for social support services to ensure they can safely isolate / quarantine. These may include:
 - Food assistance
 - Child / family care
 - Basic necessities assistance
 - Housing security / rental support
 - Cash assistance
 - Health insurance support
 - Legal aid
 - Mental health resources
 - Facilities for quarantine/isolation

New Jersey COVID-19 contact tracing timeline



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Implications of Contact Tracing for your business

How can you help contact tracing be successful?

- Inform your employees of the importance of contact tracing
- Inform your employees of the available resources for support, including employment protection
- Work with the DOH to share information and support contact tracing

How can the DOH support?

- What concerns do you have about contact tracing?
- What questions are you hearing that we aren't answering?
- How can we get employees to cooperate more with contact tracing?

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