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## CONTACT TRACING FOR COVID-19 IN NEW JERSEY

*As large-scale contact tracing begins, scammers pretending to be contact tracers working for local public health departments are attempting to steal private information via phishing schemes.*

### WHAT WILL NOT OCCUR WITH CONTACT TRACING?

A contact tracer will never ask for a social security number, bank or credit card number, or your insurance number over the phone.

Someone who came in contact with you tested positive or has shown symptoms for COVID-19 & recommends you self-isolate/get tested.  
More at

[COVID-19.nj.gov/ohsp/](https://www.nj.gov/health/ohsp/)

*A hoax text message regarding contact tracing circulating in New Jersey*

### WHAT TYPE OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE USED DURING NOTIFICATIONS?

Contact tracers will make notification through traditional means (phone calls, text messages, or letters may be dropped off at your door). Contact tracers will provide their name, agency, and a phone number through the text message. The goal of these communication methods is to engage in a phone conversation. Contact tracing can be done in any language, for the hard of hearing, etc. Contact tracers will assure individuals of their privacy.

### OVERALL PURPOSE OF CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is conducted for close contacts (any individual within six feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.

### OVERALL PROCESS OF CONTACT TRACING

Contact tracing is conducted in collaboration with your local health department. Contact tracers will notify individuals of exposure, provide disease and transmission information, gather data on demographics, living arrangements, and daily activities. Contact tracers will ask about symptoms and underlying medical conditions, refer you for possible testing, provide recommendations for self-quarantine, and review daily monitoring procedures. Contact tracers will assess if any supports are necessary to maintain compliance during self-quarantine, may conduct daily monitoring during self-quarantine (temperature, symptoms, use of fever reducing medications—via electronic tool (e.g., smartphone, case management software) or other designated mechanism, until 14 days after last potential exposure, and referral to healthcare if individual becomes symptomatic. All information provided to a contact tracer will remain confidential.

### WHAT STEPS WILL BE TAKEN?

1. Interview of the person diagnosed with COVID-19, including asking about close contacts
2. Rapid notification of exposure to close contacts
3. Contact interview
4. May conduct medical monitoring for 14 days
5. Contact close out

### HOW LONG IS THE INITIAL INTERVIEW?

Contact tracers will notify exposed individuals through a phone call. This phone call may last 15 to 20-minutes.

### WHAT ARE SOME QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE ASKED?

- Confirmation questions to ensure you are the contact.
- Are you feeling sick?
- What symptoms do you have?
- When did symptoms start?
- Were you tested for COVID-19?
- What activities have you done in the last X days?
- Where do you work?
- What do you do at work?
- Are you a student? Where?
- Who is in your household?
- Do you need support services?

### LEGITIMACY OF CONTACT TRACER

If you express concern about the legitimacy of your conversation with a contact tracer, you may hang up and call your local health department. Please call your local health department if you have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not hear from them within 24 hours. Additionally, you may be contacted regarding other health concerns. Please visit <https://www.state.nj.us/health/lh/community> for a directory of local health departments.