

Recently we have had inquiries about contact tracing and what a contact tracer does.

Contact tracing is a public health action used to identify persons who may have come in contact with someone who has an infectious disease. This is a method that has been used in public health to control communicable diseases.

How does COVID-19 contact tracing work? It starts with people who have confirmed or suspected infections. Shiawassee County Health Department staff reach out and ask about close contacts they've had during the time they may have been infectious. Our staff then call anyone who may have been exposed.

Contacts are given information and support to understand their risk and how to keep others safe. They're asked to monitor themselves for illness and to seek medical assistance if they become ill. They may be asked to self-quarantine or isolate themselves.

The calls are confidential. Our staff protect the privacy of patients and contacts. They don't give the name of the patient, only that they may have been exposed to someone with the infection.