



Prioritizing Case Investigations and Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in High Burden Jurisdictions

OVERVIEW



CDC released new recommendations prioritizing case investigations and contact tracing to assist health departments experiencing escalating COVID-19 cases. These new recommendations further refine existing prioritization recommendations and presents new modeling data regarding timeframes to maximize the effectiveness of contact tracing activities.

KEY PRIORITIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDES:



Prioritize case investigation interviews for people diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 6 days (based on specimen collection date or symptom onset, if known).



Prioritize contact tracing efforts on household contacts exposed in past 6 days, and people living, working or visiting congregate living facilities, high density workplaces or other settings (or events) with potential extensive transmission.



If more than 14 days have elapsed since the specimen was collected, case investigation should generally not be pursued.

Please see a summary of recommendations for prioritization of COVID-19 case investigation and contract tracing below.

PRIORITIZING COVID-19 CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

HIGHEST PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

For cases, prioritize case investigations for people diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 6 days (based on specimen collection date or symptoms onset, if known)

For contacts, prioritize:

- Household contacts exposed in the past 6 days
- people living, working, or visiting congregate living facilities, high density workplaces or other settings (or events) with potential extensive transmission

NEXT LEVEL PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

As resources allow, expand case investigations and contact tracing to people outside the household who are:

- At increased risk for severe illness
- Part of a cluster
- Exposed within the last 6 days

LOW PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

- As resources allow or COVID-19 case rates decline, expand case investigation interviews to people with positive COVID-19 test specimens collected in the past 14 days, and expand contact tracking to all contacts exposed within the past 14 days
- **If more than 14 days have elapsed since specimen collection, case investigation and contact tracking should generally not be pursued**

BURDEN DECREASING / CAPACITY INCREASING

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The new case investigation and contact tracing prioritization recommendations are available on CDC's web site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/prioritization.html>

For more information and resources on Contact Tracing, refer to Contract Tracing Resources for Health Departments at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/open-america/contact-tracing-resources.html>

The Contact Tracing Program Support Team is available to provide technical assistance, and can be reached at CDC IMS NCOV Response STLT Clearance eocevent423@cdc.gov.

