

TESTING & NOTIFICATION

- Testing occurs at multiple places, both public and private.
 - For example, the St. Johns Test Site is a public testing site
- APH receives the results from laboratories, doctor offices, and hospitals through phone, fax or email.
 - COVID-19 is a notifiable condition, which means all suspected or confirmed cases are required to be reported to Austin Public Health.
- APH Disease Surveillance team collects necessary information about the person that was tested from the location that submitted the result including:
 - Name, Date of Birth, phone number, address, and a copy of the lab report with results, date of collection, laboratory name and address
- All reported cases are assigned to the APH Epidemiology team for investigation.

CASE INVESTIGATION

- APH Epidemiologist contacts the case patient and conducts a comprehensive and detailed interview as part of the case investigation. The investigation may also require review of medical records and gathering details about contacts and exposures.
- Each case investigation requires at least an hour, and sometimes more time, depending on the details of the case, history and other follow-up as needed.
- The case investigation is conducted using a standardized, four-page COVID-19 case report form. Information collected includes:
 - Demographics
 - Symptoms
 - Travel/Exposure
 - Underlying Conditions (Co-Morbidities)
 - Hospitalization
 - Other testing that may have occurred
 - Ability to isolate
 - Close Contacts



CASE INVESTIGATION cont

- Data from the case report forms are compiled in a detailed database/line List
- Data is updated and reviewed multiple times each day for accuracy, completeness and quality. This data is also analyzed and used to generate multiple statistical summaries that are included in the APH Epidemiology Daily COVID-19 Report. Components of this report are used to update the APH website's COVID-19 Dashboard.

CONTACT TRACING

- Close contacts are identified through the process of case investigation.
- Contact tracing is the process of identifying, contacting and tracking all the persons exposed to a laboratory-confirmed case.
- Contact tracing relies on extensive and detailed interviews, establishing rapport with case patients, and obtaining complete and factual information from the case patient. Some cases may decline to provide contact information.
- If a person is a contact of a confirmed case, they must monitor their symptoms for 14 days, restrict their movement and get tested if they experience symptoms
- If a contact becomes a case, they will also be interviewed to identify close contacts for additional contact tracing

OTHER DEFINITIONS

- PUM – Person Under Monitoring. People who have been in contact with or exposed to someone with COVID-19 but have NO symptoms; or a person who has travelled from a high risk area that requires monitoring for 14 days.
- PUI – Person Under Investigation. People who are laboratory-confirmed cases, both symptomatic and asymptomatic (without symptoms).

