

# Toronto Public Health

## Temporary Change in Contact Tracing

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Due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in Toronto, Toronto Public Health (TPH) has temporarily changed how we do contact tracing. We are focusing our efforts on the highest risk situations. This means people who have COVID-19 and whose infection poses the most risk to others.

### **For the time being, TPH will contact people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 to:**

- Confirm their positive COVID-19 lab test results.
- Assess their symptoms, and determine when they started.
- Confirm their ability to safely self-isolate or refer them to the Toronto Voluntary Isolation Centre.
- Provide instructions on how they can notify their high-risk contacts.

TPH is asking people who are diagnosed with COVID-19 to identify the number of close contacts they had in the 14 days before their symptoms started. A close contact is anyone they spent more than 15 minutes with at any indoor social gathering or in a crowded indoor space who is not part of their household. This information will help TPH identify people who had 10 or more high-risk contacts to help with contact management and follow up. TPH will also be using an online survey to collect information on how people got infected to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our city. TPH continues to investigate and respond to outbreaks in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, shelters, schools, and child care settings.

When the number of COVID-19 cases in Toronto returns to a manageable level, TPH will resume its regular contact tracing process.

November 19, 2020