

COVID-19

- Coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has spread with alarming speed, infecting many countries around the world, including Puerto Rico.
- Recent studies suggest as many as 80% or more of those infected are "silent carriers", showing no or very mild symptoms.
- On average, symptoms reveal themselves in a newly infected person about 5 days after contact. Most people with symptoms show them by day 12 up to 14.
- There is no specific recommended treatment for Covid-19 and there is currently no vaccine available.

"The importance of contact tracing in this pandemic is a vital approach to activate effective protocols and execute accurate actions"

Lucy Crespo, Puerto Rico Science, Technology & Research Trust CEO

MUNICIPAL IDENTIFICATION, ASSISTANCE AND CONTACT TRACING PROGRAM COVID-19 / PUERTO RICO



☑ WHAT IS THE COVID-19 CONTACT IDENTIFICATION, ASSISTANCE AND TRACKING PROGRAM?

Contact tracing is a standard public health tool used for many decades to control the spread of many different infectious diseases. Contact tracing was used to control and end a large outbreak of Ebola in West Africa. Also, contact tracing has been implemented with success in New Zealand and England to fight Covid-19.

A contact tracer is responsible for maintaining daily communication with affected individuals throughout their quarantine period. The tracer will provide virtual needs checks and make referrals to social, medical and financial services.

THE REASON BEING: STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITIES... TO SAVE LIVES!

SYSTEM STATEMENT: TRACKING – ORIENTATION – PREVENTION – ASSISTANCE

☑ WHAT IS THE PROGRAM PURPOSE?

From an identified positive case of Covid-19, the contact tracer proceeds to investigate the transmission origins. Also, contact tracing pursues the identification of persons who may have come into contact with an infected person (contacts) during the infection period (2-14 days), and subsequent collection of further information about these contacts. The scope of this data provides direction for decision making process about the following actions:

- Based on our current knowledge, a close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated. They should be encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance from others (at least 6 feet) until 14 days after their last exposure, in case they also become ill.
- Notify institutions and organizations that they have been exposed to positive cases. For example, agencies, restaurants, nursing homes, religious institutions, etc.
- Make referrals to support contacts such as: medical and health services, food bank, financial aid, emotional counseling, spiritual counseling, and others

☑ CASE IDENTIFICATION

- Immediately identify and interview people with SARS CoV-2 infections and Covid-19:
 - Self-report to the agency - Covid-19 patients
 - Self-report to the agency - Covid-19 suspicious
 - Cases referred by the Department of Health or municipalities
- We work in collaboration with clinical laboratories and related institutions.

☑ OUR TEAM

- Contact tracers certified by The Johns Hopkins University.
- Holistic healthcare professionals.
- Community liaison officers: governmental and private agencies, food banks, faith-based organizations, and health institutions.

☑ OTHER BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

- In association with municipal epidemiologists to pursue the implementation of epidemiological and social research approach applied the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We examine useful empirical data for decision-making process, such as number of infected patients, contacts, recovered cases, deaths reported, serological and molecular testing status, cases progression and post recovered follow-up efforts.