UIC COVID-19 Contact Tracing

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UIC COVID-19 Contact Tracing: CCTEP + UHS

- We are a group of epidemiologists, APRN and RN contact tracers, and student contact tracers housed in the School of Public Health and University Health Services
- Goal: monitor COVID-19 epidemiology on the UIC campus and perform contact tracing on employees and students who are infected with COVID-19
- Collaborating with:
  - Student Health Services
  - Infection Control
  - Housing
  - Athletics
  - Performing arts

Where does contact tracing fit in?

1. Test (saliva, diagnostic)
2. Isolate
3. Contact trace

Goal: isolate cases as soon as possible, and identify and quarantine contacts in order to stop the transmission of COVID-19

Why is contact tracing important?

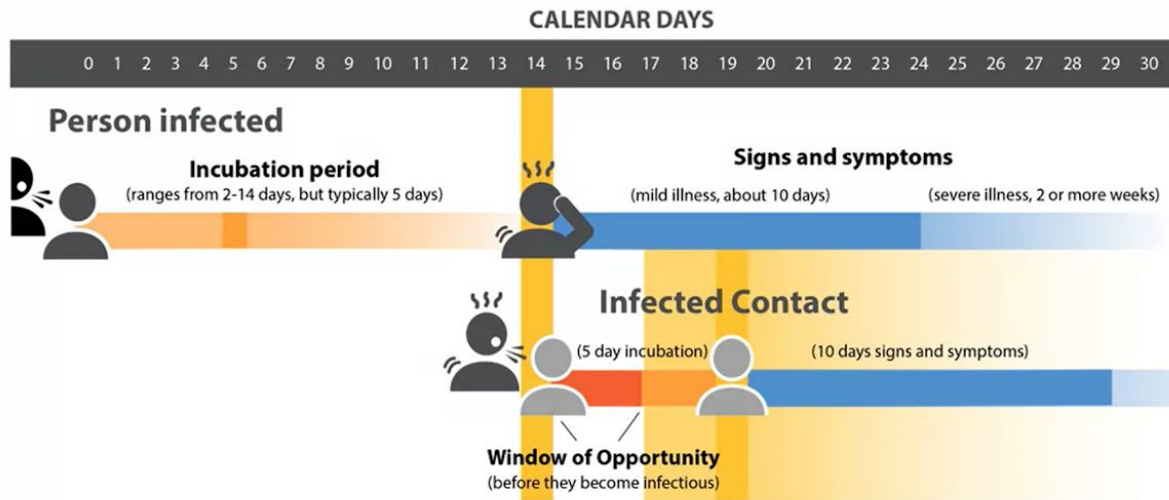Timeline of Infection: Window of Opportunity

Image source: Center for Teaching and Learning, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

What services does UIC contact tracing provide?

For individuals who test positive for COVID-19:

- Notify of test result
- Inquire about symptoms and advise to seek medical care when appropriate
- Inquire about the infectious period and possible sources of exposure
- Identify contacts
- Isolate
- Provide ongoing support
- Removal and return-to-participation

For individuals exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- Notify of exposure
- Inquire about symptoms
- Advise to seek testing when appropriate
- Quarantine
- Provide ongoing support
- Removal and return-to-participation

Reporting external positive test results, symptoms, exposures, and travel to UIC contact tracing

➔ There is now a __single reporting tool__ available to guide all UIC and UI Health students, faculty, and staff to the appropriate resource.

➔ Stay home and __report__ if:

◆ If you test positive for COVID-19 (campus saliva and tests done at UHS do not need to be reported), or

◆ If you experience __symptoms of COVID-19__, no matter how mild, or

◆ If you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or

◆ If you travel to another state or country.

What should you do after reporting external positive test results, symptoms, exposures, or travel to UIC contact tracing?

- <u>Stay home</u> except to seek medical care - try to remain in a room separate from other household members, such as a bedroom. *UIC contact tracing will be in touch within 24-48 hours, generally much sooner.*

- If you need to share space with others, you and other household members should:
  - Wear masks.
  - Practice social distancing of 6' or more, even among household members.
  - Disinfect common surfaces before and after each use.
  - Wash hands frequently.
  - Note: the only exception to this is if you and another household member have both tested positive, in which case sharing space unmasked is okay. Remember to still follow the above with any other household members who have not tested positive.

- If you are fully vaccinated (i.e., are ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or ≥2 weeks following receipt of 1 dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine) <u>at the time of your exposure</u> and you are <u>asymptomatic</u>, you may continue to come to campus for work/class after reporting your exposure but before hearing from UIC contact tracing. Please continue strict adherence to masking, social distancing and hand-washing.

What happens when someone attends an in-person activity at UIC while infectious?

- Case and instructor/supervisor/sponsor interviewed by UIC contact tracing.
- UIC contact tracing will use these interviews (and any other additional data necessary depending on the specific situation) to:
  - Determine if anyone in the class/workspace/event experienced a close contact exposure to the COVID-positive person, and if so, advise them to quarantine.
  - Arrange for spaces to be disinfected, if needed.
  - Determine if there are any mitigation breaches - these will be communicated to the Environmental Health and Safety Office for future prevention.
- Results of the investigation will be communicated to the instructor/supervisor and any additional points-of-contact.
  - If this is not a clinical setting (i.e. not involving patients or research participants), the instructor/supervisor will receive a summary email of the above *without* any identifying information about the case to forward to their class/subordinates for transparency.

Things instructors/supervisors/sponsors can do to assist contact tracing

1. Check individuals' <u>badges</u> as they arrive.
2. Reinforce appropriate distancing and masking throughout the event.
3. Keep a record of:
   a. Attendees.
      i. Including best contact information is a plus.
   b. Location of the event.
   c. The seating chart of where attendees are during the event. If they are in multiple formations, keep track of how long they are in each one.
      i. Numbering seats/spots in the room may help, or even taking a photo once everyone is in their place.
   d. Types of masks being worn.
   e. Activities which occur (and for how long each activity goes on).
4. If anyone contacts you after the event to say they have tested positive, developed symptoms, or been exposed to someone with COVID-19, please instruct them to report this <u>here</u>.
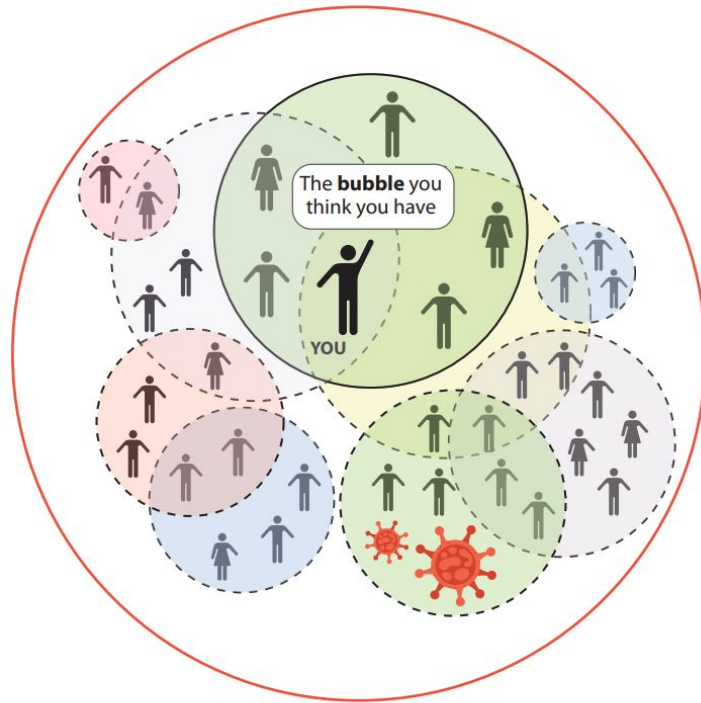
Key metrics of CCTEP - non-patient-facing cases/contacts

Hours from specimen collection to isolation among cases reached (n = 757) Median (IQR)	26.6 (21.1, 49.2)
Hours from case reported to CCTEP to isolation among cases reached (n = 757) Median (IQR)	2.6 (0.5, 18.6)
Hours from contact reported to CCTEP to quarantine among contacts reached (n = 543) Median (IQR)	14.1 (1, 39.8)
Percent reached for follow-up among cases (n = 793)	96%
Percent reached for follow-up among contacts (n = 655)	96%
Percent retained among cases reached (n = 757)	93%
Percent retained among contacts reached (n = 630)	93%
Days infectious at first follow-up interview among cases reached (n = 757)	5 (3, 7)
Number of UIC contacts per case	0.8
Percent contacts who convert to case or PUI status (n = 771)	16%
Percent converted contacts who convert to confirmed cases (n = 120)	32%
Percent converted contacts who convert to probable cases (n = 120)	68%

Data as of 03/31/2021 at 2:00pm.

#1   Individuals are not practicing universal social distancing and mask-wearing outside of their households:

a.   All cases with a known COVID-19 exposure occurring outside of their household were exposed at social gatherings among family or close friends (gatherings ranged from 2 to more than 100 attendees).

b.   Most cases without a known exposure reported attending social gatherings without mask-wearing or social distancing during the period in which they could have been infected.

c.   Although data suggests that persons are very adherent to masking and social distancing in classrooms or at work, they are frequently are less careful during breaks, lunch, and transit between classes.

#2 Individuals are not following campus-wide mandates to stay home and seek diagnostic testing if they or a household member experience COVID-19 symptoms:

a. Since August 31st, 41% of cases from saliva testing reported symptoms prior to submitting a specimen.
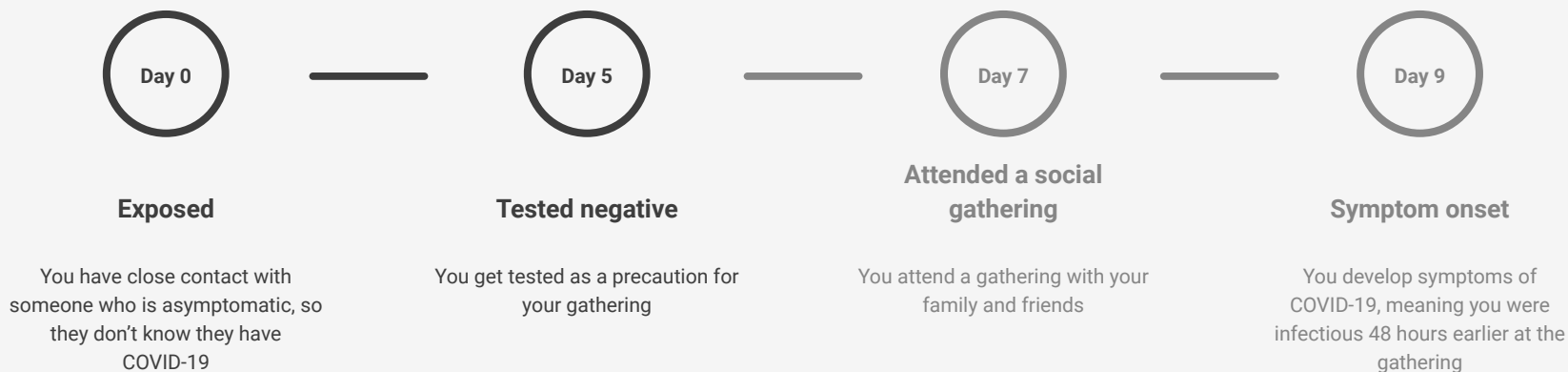
#3 Recent data serve to emphasize the continued importance of social gatherings in off-campus housing, dormitories, and at family get-togethers as high-risk settings for COVID-19 acquisition.

a. This is particularly important to consider if you are thinking of gathering with others outside of your household.

Other guidance:

- Avoid travel - airports, bus stations, train stations, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places travelers can be exposed to the virus in the air and on surfaces.
  - If you do travel, make sure to follow local guidance to return.
- Spend time with friends and family virtually, as it is the only foolproof way of ensuring COVID-19 does not spread among your loved ones.
- If you choose gather in-person with individuals outside of your household, reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 by:
  - Meet outside.
  - Wear masks at all times.
  - Practice social distancing of 6 feet or more.
  - If you choose to enjoy a meal together, make sure to remain farther than 6 feet away from one another, as you will need to remove your mask to eat.
  - Do not share food, drinks, or utensils.
  - Everyone who plans to attend should limit contacts and interactions for 14 days prior to gathering to decrease the risk of bringing COVID-19 to the event.
- Anyone at risk for severe complications should not gather with others outside of their household.

Remember: a negative COVID-19 test only means you were negative on the day you were tested

Day 0

Exposed

You have close contact with someone who is asymptomatic, so they don't know they have COVID-19

Day 5

Tested negative

You get tested as a precaution for your gathering

Day 7

Attended a social gathering

You attend a gathering with your family and friends

Day 9

Symptom onset

You develop symptoms of COVID-19, meaning you were infectious 48 hours earlier at the gathering

What do we need from students, faculty, and staff?

1. Tell your faculty, staff, and students to respond promptly should they receive a call or email from UIC contact tracing, and ask them to cooperate and be truthful with us.

2. Update your contact information so contact tracing can reach you quickly should we need to. We will only reach out if it's important!

3. Stay home and report positive COVID-19 test results, symptoms, exposures, or out-of-state travel to UIC contact tracing. Once you report the above, you will be given proper public health guidance.

4. Saliva test regularly on campus, unless you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days. *If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, report them to receive public health guidance.*

5. If you are a supervisor or instructor, share with faculty, staff, and students how you will support them if they do need to stay home from work or school to isolate or quarantine.

6. Share any safety concerns you may have regarding your break space or lack a safe break space, such as not having sufficient space in which to physically distance from coworkers. You can submit these concerns to the Environmental, Health, and Safety Office using the this confidential link.

7. Enforce compliance with social distancing, mask-wearing, and other prevention behaviors on campus, and encourage faculty, staff, and students to continue these behaviors in their personal lives with anyone outside of their household. *This applies to those who have been partially or fully vaccinated as well. Guidance on improving the functionality of your mask can be found here.*

8. Schedule your vaccination as soon as it becomes available to you, and consider sharing your vaccination experience with colleagues, friends, and family.

For inquiries about Work Status Reports or investigations on your unit/at your event:

➔ For a patient- and participant-facing settings, contact:
Dr. David Marder davidm@uic.edu or Trin Zahakaylo trin@uic.edu

➔ For all other settings, contact:
Ellen Stein estein25@uic.edu

For general inquiries about this presentation:

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