

MAKING CONTACT:

A Training for COVID-19 Case
Investigators and Contact Tracers

UNIT 1 GLOSSARY

Antibody: A protein found in the blood that is produced in response to foreign substances (e.g., bacteria or viruses) invading the body. Antibodies protect the body from disease by binding to these organisms and destroying them.

Antibody test: This test detects a toxin or other foreign substance, like the COVID-19 virus, through the presence of antibodies. This type of test can tell you if there has been a *past* infection.

Asymptomatic: A person is said to be asymptomatic for an infectious disease when they have been exposed to a microorganism and symptoms of a disease are never present or apparent.

Basic reproduction number: A number that is used to measure the *potential* contagiousness of a disease.

Cluster: A group of cases of a disease, injury, or other health condition in a specific area during a specific period of time.

Community transmission: This occurs when an illness spreads in the community and the source is unknown.

Confirmed COVID-19 case: This occurs when a person has confirmed laboratory evidence for a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): An infectious disease caused by a specific coronavirus, also known as COVID-19.

Determinants of health: The factors that influence health.

Disease: The result when an infection does damage to the body, causing illness or sickness.

Effective reproduction number: A number that is used to measure the *actual* contagiousness of a disease within a population.

Endemic: The constant presence of a disease (or other health condition) in a specific area or population.

Epidemic: When the number of cases of disease (or other health condition) is greater than expected in a specific area or population.

Epidemiologist: A public health professional who analyzes patterns and causes of health conditions among populations to identify outbreaks and other important events.

Epidemiology: The study of the patterns and causes of health conditions among populations, and the use of that information to address health problems.

Equity: Refers to fairness and justice in the support, opportunities, and outcomes that people experience.

Exposure: Having contact with an infectious agent, such as a virus, that causes a particular health problem.

Health disparity: A difference in health outcomes between groups of people. These differences can occur by gender, race, ethnicity, age, location, income, disability status, and sexual orientation.

Health equity: This occurs when everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Health inequity: A difference in health outcomes between groups of people due to systemic, avoidable, and unjust social and economic policies that can create barriers to achieving optimal health.

Immunocompromised: When a person's immune system does not work at full capacity. These people might be at a higher risk for an infection.

Incubation period: The period of time between when a person is exposed to a virus and when they start to show symptoms of the disease.

Index case: The first case or instance of a patient with a particular infection coming to the attention of health authorities.

Indirect transmission: Indirect transmission occurs when a person comes into contact with contaminated air particles or objects.

Inequity: A lack of justice or fairness.

Infection: The result when an infectious agent (such as viruses or bacteria) multiplies and invades the body or enters a part of the body where it is not usually found.

Infectious disease: An illness caused by an agent (e.g., viruses, bacteria, fungi, or parasites) that can spread from person to person.

Infectious period: The period of time when a disease can be spread to others. For COVID-19, people are thought to be contagious when they are asymptomatic (i.e., during the incubation period) *and* when they are symptomatic.

Inflammation: A bodily, local response to injury, mild or severe, that can include redness, heat, and pain.

Isolation: Used to separate people infected with the virus from people who are not infected, even at home.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C): A condition in children where different body parts become inflamed (i.e., red and swollen). While we do not yet know what causes it, many children with MIS-C have had the virus that causes COVID-19.



Nasopharynx: The upper part of the throat, behind the nose.

Pandemic: An epidemic that takes place over a large area (i.e., multiple countries or the world).

Personal protective equipment (PPE): Equipment used to protect individuals from COVID-19, such as face masks and gloves.

Presymptomatic: A person is said to be presymptomatic for an infectious disease when they have been exposed to a microorganism and symptoms of a disease are not yet present or apparent.

Priority populations: A group of persons whose risk for a particular disease, injury, or other health condition is greater than that of the rest of their community or population.

Probable COVID-19 case: When a person has symptoms of COVID-19 and has had contact with another person with COVID-19, but does not have a laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

Quarantine: The separation of individuals who might have been exposed to COVID-19 from others.

Reproduction number: Represents the average number of people who will be infected by one person with a disease (like COVID-19).

Respiratory system: The organs and other parts of your body involved in breathing.

Self-isolation: Also called home isolation, this term refers to isolation that takes place in the person's home.

Self-quarantine: Also called home quarantine, this term refers to quarantine that takes place in the person's home.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2): The virus that causes COVID-19.

Social determinants of health: The conditions in places we live, learn, work, worship, and play that affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes.

Social distancing: Also called “physical distancing,” social distancing involves staying six feet away from people who are not in your household, both indoors and outdoors.

Symptom: Subjective evidence of a physical disorder (e.g., sore throat) that an individual feels or experiences.

Symptomatic: Displaying symptoms.

Systemic: Affecting an entire organization or country.

Transmission: The way infectious agents (such as viruses and bacteria) spread and infect another person's body.



Viral test: Also called a diagnostic test, this test can tell if there is a current infection by detecting the virus directly.

