What is contact tracing? How does it help stop the spread of COVID-19?

- Contact tracing has been used in Santa Clara County and around the world for a long time to prevent the spread of infections.
- It is a way to identify people who came into contact with someone who tested positive for a disease (such as measles, tuberculosis, or COVID-19) that can be transmitted to others.
- By finding people who were in close contact* with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, they can be notified before they show any signs of being sick. If they quarantine at home right away, they are not out in the community spreading the virus to others.

**Step 1**
When a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, their name and contact information are provided to the local Public Health Department.

**Step 2**
Public Health staff will call the parent or teacher to help them remember everyone in the same stable cohort as the COVID-positive person, or who the student/teacher had close contact with (at school, home, or in the community) and who may have been exposed to the virus.

- **Close Contact**= Anyone who was near a COVID-positive person (within six feet for more than 15 minutes) during the time they were infectious and could pass on COVID-19.
- **Stable Cohort**= A group of children/youth and their teacher/coach, who stay together for all activities (e.g., instruction, support, meals, recreation, etc.) and avoid contact with others outside of their group while in that setting.

**Step 3**
Contact tracers (working on behalf of Public Health) get in touch with the student/teacher’s contacts to recommend next steps (such as monitoring for symptoms, getting tested and staying in quarantine).

Note: Your/your child’s information is protected according to confidentiality laws. (17 CCR 2502(f))

**Step 4**
Contacts are given information & support to:
- Understand COVID-19 risk and how the infection spreads
- When and how to get tested
- How to separate themselves to protect others who were not exposed (quarantine)
- How to monitor for symptoms and what to do if they have symptoms
- Access community supportive services for isolation and quarantine

*NEW - Fully vaccinated individuals may not be required to quarantine, if they meet certain conditions. See sccstayhome.org for more info.*

more about contact tracing: sccstayhome.org