

## Notifying Close Contacts of Positive Exposure

### Next Steps:

I tested positive for COVID-19. What can I do to help notify my close contacts of their exposure?

Individuals impacted by COVID-19 can call to request assistance with groceries, obtaining a thermometer or to request a work exclusion or return to work letter.

Notifying your own close contacts of their exposure to COVID-19 can help limit the spread in your community.

## Who should I notify?

First, you need to determine the time period during which you could have exposed others.

- ◆ If you have symptoms, you were able to spread COVID-19 starting **two days before your first symptoms started**.
- ◆ If you have not had any symptoms, you were able to spread COVID-19 starting **two days before your positive COVID-19 test was taken**.
- ◆ You should notify anyone with whom you had **close contact while able to spread COVID-19**.

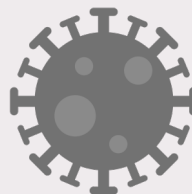
Close contact is defined as any of the following interactions:



Having direct physical contact with someone.  
(e.g. hug, kiss, handshake)



Being within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes total in a day.



Having contact with your respiratory secretions.  
(e.g. coughed/sneezed on, contact with dirty tissue, sharing a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items)



Living with or spent the night with someone.

## What do I tell my close contacts?

CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) recommends that close contacts **quarantine in their home for 14 days**, beginning the last day they were exposed to you. *This should be done regardless of whether your contact receives a negative test during their quarantine period* because they could develop symptoms 2 to 14 days after being exposed.

- ◆ Your contact may receive a call from Public Health who will ask your contact some questions and provide additional information. **Please ask your contact to answer the phone call.**
- ◆ The DHS fact sheet called **“Next steps: close contacts of someone with COVID-19”** will provide more details for what to do to protect others.
- ◆ If your contact has additional questions, they can contact their primary care provider, local health agency, or visit the Wisconsin DHS **COVID-19 Website**.

## What if I want to remain anonymous but still notify my close contacts?

There is an online tool called **“Tell Your Contacts”** which allows for **anonymous text or email notifications**.

**To send notifications from this tool:**

1. Visit **tellyourcontacts.org**.
2. Select **email** or **text** notification.
3. Enter your contacts' information and exposure date.
4. Select either the pre-written message or customize your own. You do not need to enter your name.
5. Send your message.