Healthy Georgia Collaborative

Medical Associations Webinar

May 26, 2020 – 6:00 PM EST
Welcome!

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Attendees:

• American Academy of Pediatrics- Georgia Chapter
• American College of Physicians- Georgia Chapter
• Georgia Academy of Family Physicians
• Georgia Dental Association
• Georgia Hospital Association
• Georgia’s Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
• Georgia Nurses Association
• Medical Association of Georgia
Agenda

- Contact tracing program overview
- Guidance to report testing
- Guidance to educate patients
- Q & A

Housekeeping:
- Everyone’s line will be muted to reduce audio feedback
- Please send questions to the chat
- 20-minute Q&A at the end
- Session will be recorded and posted after
- Presentation will be shared afterward
Together we can stop the spread of COVID-19

Our success in this fight depends on public health authorities, the medical community, and residents working together, following evidence-based guidelines and participating in public health programs like testing and monitoring.
Four priorities for the Healthy Georgia Collaborative

<table>
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<th>Focus area</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<td>Integrated <strong>strategy</strong> and governance</td>
<td>Rapid, coordinated response across state agencies, the medical community and private sector</td>
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<td><strong>Workforce</strong> development and training</td>
<td>Trained contact tracers deployed across every county</td>
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<td><strong>Technology</strong>, data and analytics</td>
<td>Streamlined tracing and monitoring efforts, and accurate, automated reporting</td>
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<td><strong>Communications</strong> and community outreach</td>
<td>Broad public trust in and adoption of public health measures</td>
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Progress to date (since May 15)

*Latest as of May 25*

- **490+** Active contact tracers, targeting to ramp up to 1,000 by mid-June
- **4,900+** Total case interviews conducted
- **12,600+** Contacts identified
- **2.76** Average number of contacts per case
Contact tracing process

1. **IDENTIFY + INTERVIEW**
   Cases are identified through electronic lab reports or case reports from healthcare providers. Case investigators then call the case to explain isolation and gather information about close contacts they had during their infectious period.

2. **FIND CONTACTS**
   Close contacts are called by a contact tracer to explain quarantine and enroll them in active monitoring for 14 days from their last contact with the case.

3. **MONITOR SYMPTOMS**
   Contacts report by text or by calling their symptoms to public health daily. Contacts who don’t report daily are called – and issued a quarantine order if needed.

4. **TEST**
   If contacts report symptoms, they are advised to seek medical care (if needed) and are assisted with scheduling testing.

5. If contacts test positive, the process begins again. If contacts were in quarantine, there should be few new contacts.
We need your help

1. Report positive test results with complete case data to help us rapidly isolate cases, and locate and quarantine contacts.

2. Help us educate cases and contacts about what to expect and why contact tracing is so important.

Definitions:
• Isolation: Separating persons known or suspected to be infected
• Quarantine: Separating persons known or suspected to be exposed to infection
Reporting Test Results to DPH
Reporting test results

How to report:

• Enter a case report into the State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS)
• Call your local District Health Office, or 1-866-PUB-HLTH
• Negative test results are now reportable as well, more information about how to report these tests will be coming soon

For positive results, you are required to include:

• Patient name
• Address
• Phone number and email
• Race/Ethnicity
• Gender
• Date specimen collected
• Was the patient hospitalized?
• Complete pre-existing conditions as stated in case report form
• Symptoms
• Symptom onset date
• Does the patient live or work in a congregate setting?
• Is the patient a health care worker/first responder?

The more information you can provide, the easier and faster DPH can respond to stop community spread
Educating Patients
For patients who test positive for COVID-19

Isolate yourself and help DPH stop the spread:

• Educate positive cases that their cooperation is critical for isolating (staying home to prevent the spread of disease) and identifying close contacts to prevent spreading disease.

• Expect a health professional from DPH to reach out to interview them about where they might have been and who they might have recently come into contact with. Start a list now so they can remember when DPH calls.

• Recommend they proactively reach out to friends and family who might have been exposed, so they can take preventative measures now. DPH will also notify contacts of their exposure to COVID-19.

• Direct them to DPH resources: https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact
Self-quarantine and enroll in symptom monitoring:

- Expect DPH to call them or reach out by other means if they do not answer
- They will be asked to self-quarantine in their home for 14 days from their last exposure – this is mandatory
- DPH will ask them to monitor and report their symptoms for 14 days from their last exposure
- Direct them to DPH resources: https://dph.georgia.gov/contact

Healthy Georgia Collaborative FAQs

What you need to know about COVID-19 + CONTACT TRACING

What is contact tracing?
A. Contact tracing is how we identify people who have been exposed to an infected person. DPH will call or reach out by other means to inform those who may have been exposed.

Why is contact tracing done?
A. This is an important step to limit the further spread of infection, to identify people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, and to contact and monitor them as needed.

Is contact tracing confidential?
A. Contact tracing is confidential. Names of those who test positive for COVID-19 will not be shared.

How is contact tracing done?
A. Informed public health experts work with people who test positive for COVID-19 to identify others with whom they were in close contact. Public health staff then work with those exposed and educate them on how to self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms.

How will contacts be notified?
A. A contact tracing health worker will notify the contact by phone or email that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. They will be asked to self-quarantine to protect others.

For more information about contact tracing: dph.georgia.gov/contact or call 1-866-RPH-4673

Visit dph.ga.gov for additional resources

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Key messages to remember

• We are all in this together
• DPH is your source for testing and contact tracing information
• If you believe you have been exposed or have symptoms, self-quarantine and get tested
• If you test positive, isolate yourself from others and expect DPH to reach out and interview you
• If you have been identified as a potential contact, expect DPH to reach out to monitor your symptoms
• Your identity and personal health information are always 100% confidential

Biggest challenge for contact tracing:

Getting residents to answer the phone when DPH calls
Questions