

## 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 blood test:** Also known as a serology test. This test detects a toxin or other foreign substance, like the COVID-19 virus, through the presence of antibodies.

**Asymptomatic:** A person is said to be asymptomatic for an infectious disease when they have been exposed to a micro-organism and symptoms of a disease are not present or not apparent.

**Care Coordinator (or similar role):** A trained health professional that ensures patient navigation is implemented by managing client caseloads, conducting intake assessment and reassessment, and supervising Patient Navigators. This role may also assist the Case Investigator and Contact Tracer in outreach to PUIs and their contacts, case monitoring and follow-up, and arranging for testing.

**Case Investigators (or similar role):** Trained professionals that contact the person under investigation and conduct an interview to explain the need for isolation. They also collect information including the contacts who may have been exposed to COVID-19.

**Clinical criteria:** The medical features (e.g., symptoms, medical examination findings, and laboratory results) that are used to determine if the individual can be classified as having a case of a particular disease.

**Cluster:** A number of cases of a disease, injury, or other health condition in a specific area during a particular period.

**Community transmission:** Occurs when there is a spread of an illness and the source is unknown.

**Confirmed COVID-19 case:** A person has confirmed, laboratory evidence for a COVID-19 diagnosis.

**Contact:** Anyone who came in 'close contact' with a person under investigation (PUI). This might include:

- People who stayed in the same close environment with a PUI, such as the workplace, classroom, household, place of worship, or other gatherings.
- People who traveled in close proximity to the PUI in any kind of vehicle.
- Healthcare workers who provided in-person care to the PUI without proper personal protective equipment.

**Contact Tracers (or similar role):** Trained professionals that who notify and monitor contacts of their exposure. They perform regular follow-up and monitoring activities, and help ensure the safe quarantine of contacts. In some cases, Contact Tracers may also assist Case Investigators in contacting persons under investigation (PUIs) and collecting information on their contacts.

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):** An infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. About 80% of people with COVID-19 have a mild to moderate infection similar to a cold. Some cases of COVID-19, however, can be much more severe.

**Culture:** The learned and shared behavior of a community of people who interact with one another.

**Cultural humility:** A life-long process of learning and self-reflection that allows us to: consider our own cultural beliefs and identities, personal views, and biases; and can a better understanding of the cultures and identities of others.

**Disease:** The result when infection does damage to the body (causing illness or sickness).

**Disease Intervention specialist (DIS):** DIS perform contact tracing, partner services, and emergency response. DIS have a long history of investigating cases of infectious diseases, including sexually transmitted infections. DIS have expertise in essential skills such as communication, contact tracing, interviewing, counseling, case analysis, and provider and community engagement.

**Epidemiologic risk:** The likelihood of disease or death given certain biometric measures, behaviors, demographic information, and family history. For COVID-19, this may include information about potential exposure to the virus (e.g., close contacts of lab-confirmed COVID-19 patients, etc.).

**Epidemiology:** The study of diseases and their patterns of distribution and transmission.

**Exposure:** Having come into contact with an agent (e.g., bacteria, viruses) that cause a particular health problem.

**Immunocompromised:** When a person's immune systems 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 infected 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.

**Infection:** The result when viruses or bacteria multiply and invade the body, or enter a part of the body where they are not usually found.

**Infectious disease:** An illness caused by an agent (e.g., viruses, bacteria) 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.

**Interpreter:** Someone who explains the meaning of an issue, conceives of its significance, or translates information from one group or person to another. Interpreters can translate language or cultural meanings.



**Isolation:** Separating sick people from healthy people.

**Motivational interviewing:** A communication strategy that is tailored to the behaviors, circumstances and needs of the person that is being interviewed. This strategy focuses on empathy and understanding, acceptance, respect, honesty, and caring. The goal is to help the person being interviewed explore and resolve any uncertainty they might be feeling, in order to encourage them to follow appropriate public health advice.

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

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

**Persons under investigation (PUI):** A person who is currently under investigation for having the COVID-19 virus, or who was under investigation but tested negative for the virus.

**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 to 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 away from others. Quarantine is for people who are not showing symptoms of illness.

**Rapport:** Relationship of trust between people; a feeling of sympathetic understanding; having a mutual understanding.

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

**Respondent:** The person who is providing the answer to the interview question.

**Risk communication:** Providing and exchanging up-to-date information and advice to people facing a threat to their health. The purpose of risk communication is to enable people at risk of COVID-19 to make informed decisions to protect themselves and their families.

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

**Social distancing:** Also called “physical distancing,” social distancing means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. Practicing social distancing involves: staying six feet away from other people; not gathering in groups; staying out of crowded places and avoiding mass gatherings.

**Social supports:** ‘Wraparound’ services that may include food, laundry, childcare, mental health services, and support for caregivers.

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

**Transmission:** The way viruses and bacteria spread and infect a person’s body.

