

Contact Tracing Update from Flathead City-County Health Department

The Flathead City-County Health Department continues to investigate all positive COVID-19 cases in Flathead County. Public health staff conduct case investigations and contact tracing to identify all close contacts associated with each case. FCCHD would like to emphasize the following helpful reminders regarding contact tracing:



Close contacts are defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.



All close contacts are notified directly by a Flathead City-County Health Department staff member via phone call.

There is no need to call the health department to ask if you have been named as a contact, all close contacts will be notified by FCCHD staff.



All individuals who are identified as close contacts are instructed to **self-quarantine and monitor for symptoms for 14 days since last exposure**. Close contacts may be referred by FCCHD staff to receive COVID-19 testing. All close contacts will be monitored for signs and symptoms daily through an automated contact monitoring system. Public health staff will follow up with close contacts who report experiencing symptoms during their monitoring period.



Individuals who may have been around a close contact, but were not specifically named as close contacts to the positive case, are not asked to self-quarantine.



All individuals who are awaiting COVID-19 test results should remain at home in isolation until the test results are received.



If a close contact is tested for COVID-19, and their test result comes back negative, it is expected that the individual remains isolated through the remainder of their quarantine period. COVID-19 testing is a snapshot in time. If a person has a negative test during their monitoring period, they can still develop symptoms later which might indicate onset of COVID-19.



If an individual is referred to COVID-19 testing by a healthcare provider, but refuses to go in for testing, then the **individual must stay at home in self-isolation for 10 days since symptom onset.**



Any questions about COVID-19 should be directed to call the Kalispell Regional Healthcare 24-Hour COVID Line at (406) 890-7272.

