COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR K-12

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OBJECTIVES

- Understand the State of Connecticut's overall contact tracing strategy
- Describe the roles and responsibilities of schools and public health related to contact tracing
- Identify the triggers to initiate contact tracing in a K-12 setting
- Determine what information is needed to effectively conduct contact tracing in schools
- Empower schools and local health departments (LHDs) to make decisions that balance epidemiology and local decision making

DEFINITIONS

A CASE

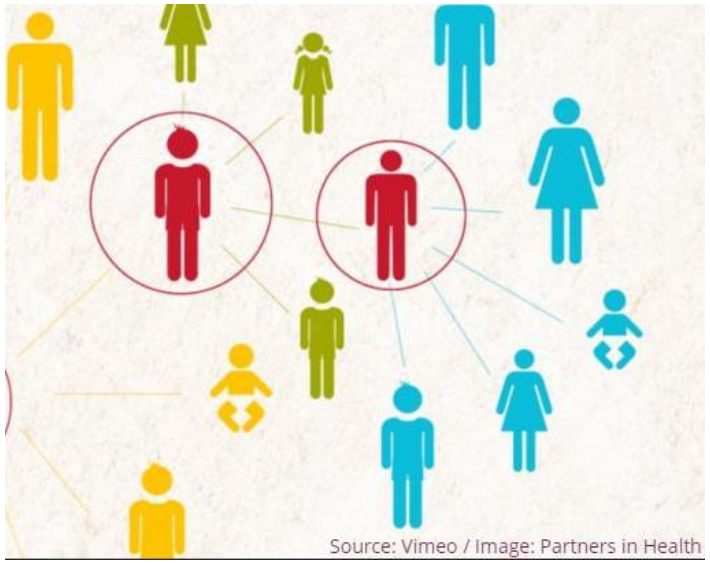
An individual who tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by:

-PCR

-Antigen Test

A CONTACT

- A person who is exposed to a case.
- Exposure:
  - Spending 15 minutes or more within 6 feet of a case
  - Direct exposure

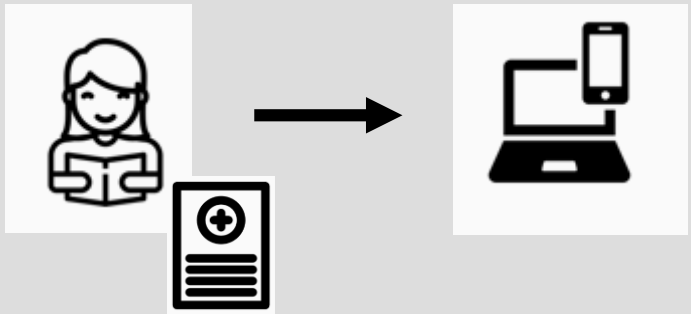


CONTACT TRACING OVERVIEW

CONTACT TRACING

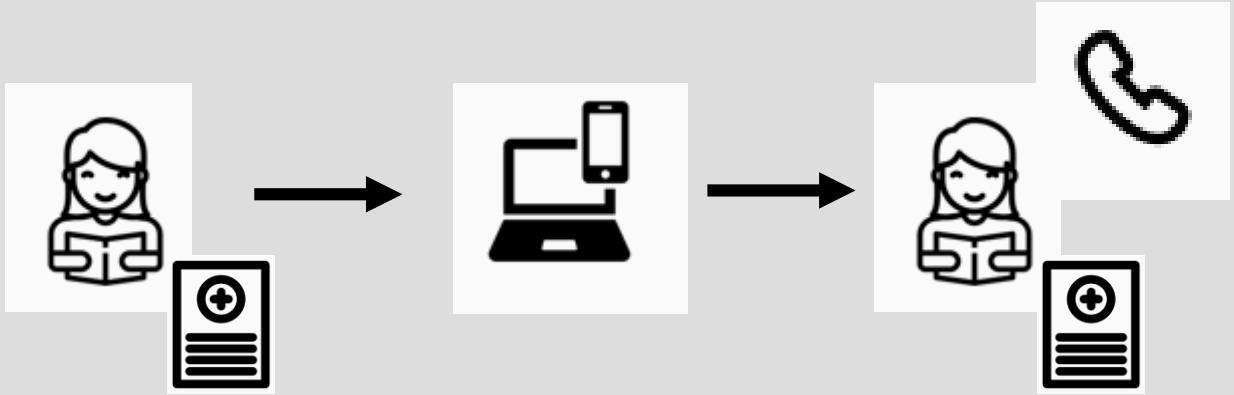
Positive test

CONTACT TRACING



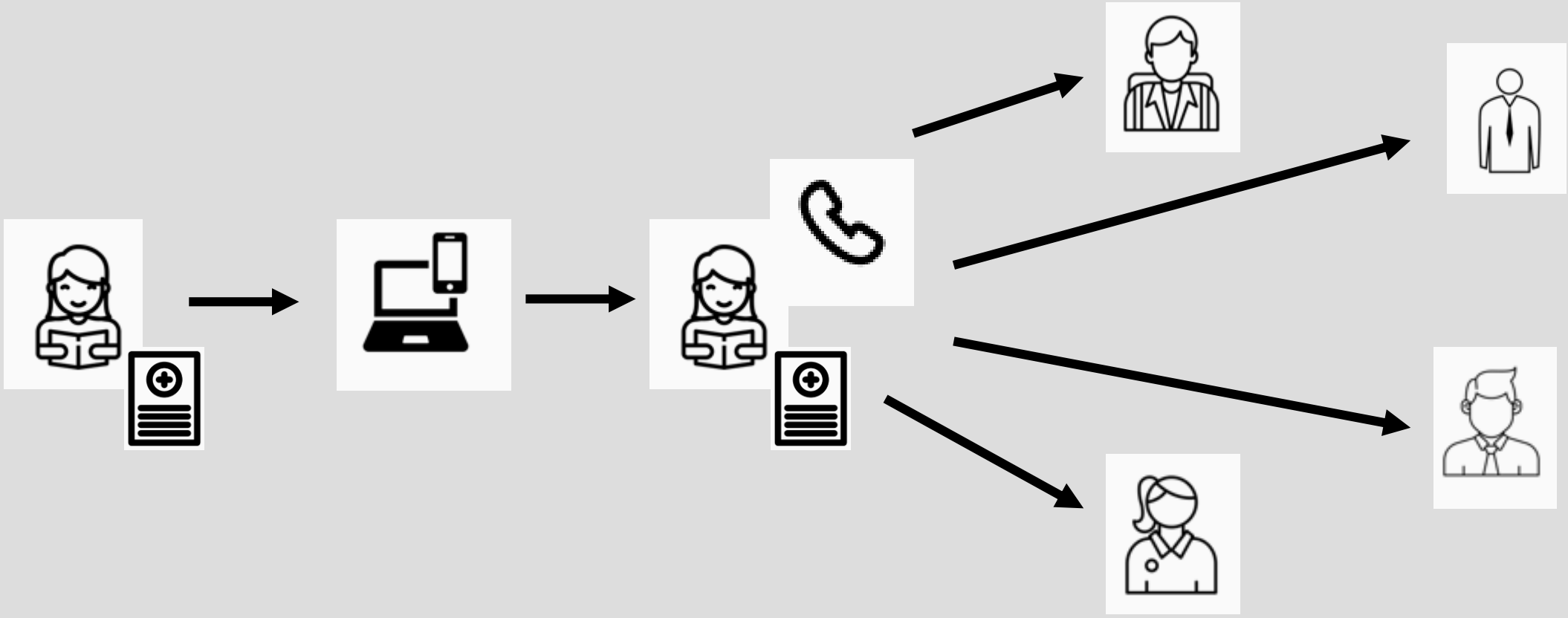
Positive test	Case reported

CONTACT TRACING



Positive test	Case reported	Case interviewed

CONTACT TRACING

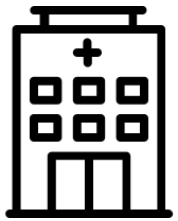


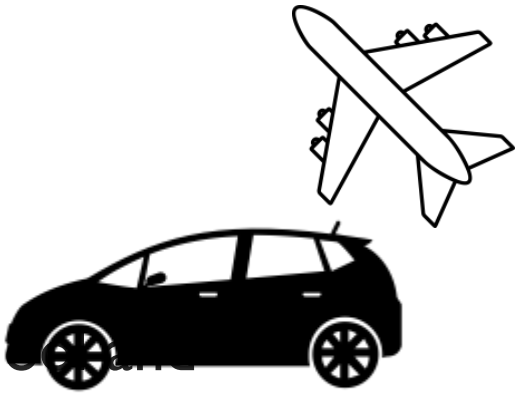
Positive test	Case reported	Case interviewed	Contacts notified

- Your school will not need to use ContaCT to manage school-based exposures
  - Please discuss what specific information your LHD needs related to school based exposures
- Contact tracers will interview all cases, including school-aged children*
  - Children will be asked what school they attend
  - This information will be shared with LHDs via ContaCT
- Students, teachers, and staff may be identified as contacts and asked to self-quarantine for exposures outside of school

WHO NEEDS TO QUARANTINE

~~Anyone with a known contact to a case.~~ May be identified in many ways:





Anyone who is asked to quarantine cannot go to sch[illegible] should stay home for 14 days after their last known exposure. They should stay away from others and use a separate bedroom/bathroom if possible.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR K-12 SETTINGS

DON'T PANIC

Make a plan

Have templates ready

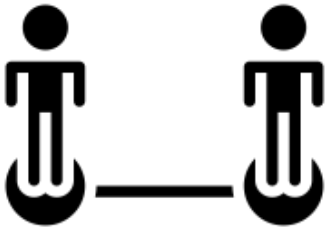
Know who to call

Take care of immediate health needs

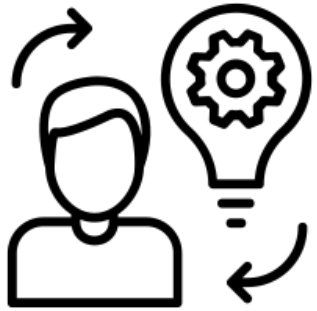
MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Face coverings/ ventilation

Disinfection



Social Distancing



Process Changes

Cohorting

ASSESSING WHETHER EXPOSURES OCCURRED AT SCHOOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Infectious*	5 Infectious*	6 Case Onset*	7 Infectious*
8 Infectious*	9 School notified of + result	10	11	12	13	14

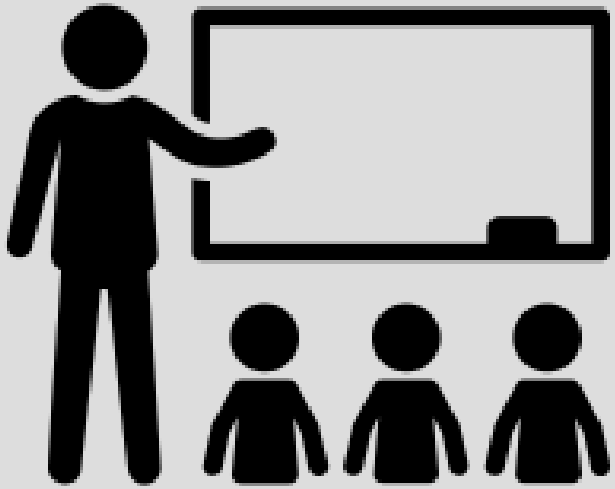
* A case is considered infectious for 2 days before their symptom onset until at least 10 days afterwards. They must also be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and have an improvement in other symptoms. If a case is asymptomatic, specimen collection date should be used to evaluate the infectious window.

ASSESSING WHETHER EXPOSURES OCCURRED AT SCHOOL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Infectious*
8 Infectious*	9 Case Onset* (home)	10 School notified of + result	11	12	13	14

* A case is considered infectious for 2 days before their symptom onset until at least 10 days afterwards. They must also be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and have an improvement in other symptoms. If a case is asymptomatic, specimen collection date should be used to evaluate the infectious window.

SCHOOL-RELATED EXPOSURE



IDENTIFYING EXPOSED INDIVIDUALS

What specific exposures occurred on the days an individual was in school while infectious?

Were these exposures confined to limited spaces? (e.g. a single class room, bus, etc.)

Were control measures in place to mitigate exposure in these settings?

Is it feasible to identify exposed individuals or are wider exclusions needed to review transmission?

COMMUNICATION

LHD	Notify your LHD ASAP
School	Follow chain-of-command in your school
Parents	Send out messaging to parents/staff
Public	Be prepared to deal with media inquiries

SCENARIOS

THE COVID-19 CALL OUT

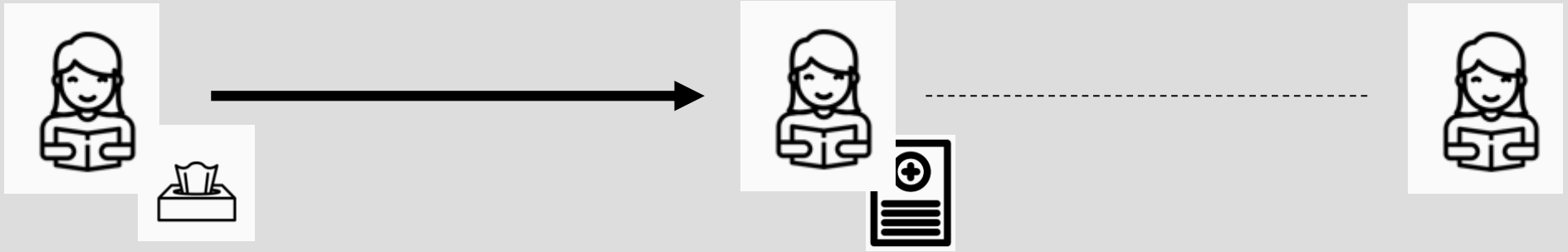
Step 1: Confirm the diagnosis

Collect the following information:

- -Name
- -Date of Birth
- -Date of symptom onset
- -Was lab testing done?
    - If yes, where?
    - Can the parent send you a copy of a lab result?
    - Who is the ordering provider?
    - Date of specimen collection
- -Last date in school

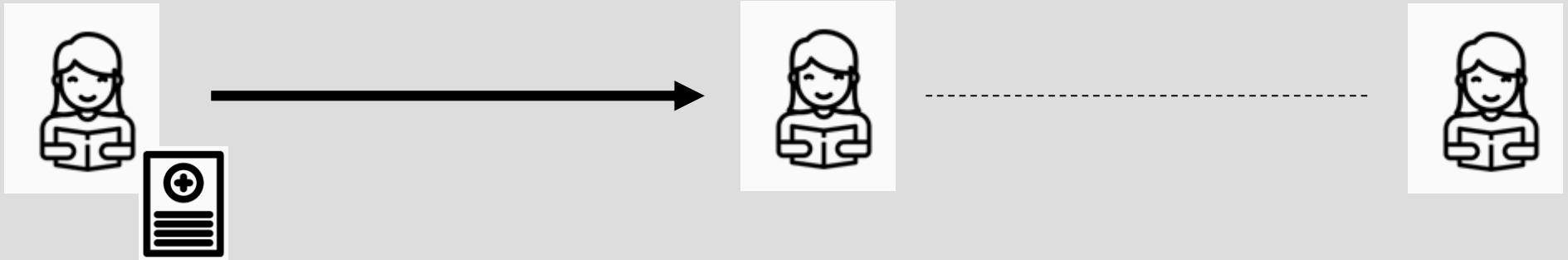
Step 2: Notify your LHD

THE SIBLING DILEMMA



Sick Child	Case	Contact
If a student is sick but has not been diagnosed with COVID-19, their siblings do not need to be excluded from school	If a student is a case, their siblings will need to self-quarantine for 14 days after their last known exposure.	If a student is a contact, their siblings do not need to be excluded from school; the siblings only would need to exclude if they have direct contact with a case.

"A CONTACT OF A CONTACT IS NOT A CONTACT"



Case	Contact	Contact of a contact
Self-isolate until no longer infectious*	Self-quarantine for 14 days after last known exposure	No public health recommendation

*A case is considered infectious for 2 days before their symptom onset until at least 10 days afterwards. They must also be fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and have an improvement in other symptoms. If a case is asymptomatic, specimen collection date should be used to evaluate the infectious window.

SHOULD WE SHUT DOWN?

- School closures may occur on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with your local health department
  - Less restrictive interventions such as excluding close contacts or classrooms is preferred, when feasible
  - Widespread community transmission may prompt statewide or local closure advisories
  - Indication of widespread transmission in a school may require school closure to control localized outbreaks
  - Need time to assess appropriate public health control measures
  - Large number of cases/contacts in a school make in-person learning infeasible

THE LOCAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

QUESTIONS???

Connecticut Department of Public Health

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