

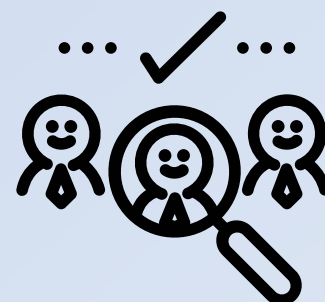
COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

What is contact tracing?

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What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.



Where did the cases in New Zealand come from?

Most cases of COVID-19 in New Zealand have come from overseas. Once a case has been identified, the Ministry of Health and DHBs track down people who may have been exposed to the virus through a process called contact tracing.

What is contact tracing?

Health services use contact tracing to find people who may have been exposed to an infectious disease. There are two types of 'contacts' – close contacts and casual contacts. Health services give advice to both of these contact types on what they need to do.

What is a close contact?

A close contact is anyone who has been close to someone with COVID-19. This can mean living in the same house or spending more than 15 minutes close to someone with COVID-19 such as on a flight, bus or train or in your workplace.

What is a casual contact?

A casual contact is someone who has had contact with a case but doesn't meet the criteria for a close contact. This could mean someone travelling on the same aeroplane who was seated away from the case. For example, they were only close to the person with COVID-19 for less than 15 minutes or were at the same place but not near them.

If you think you might be a close or casual contact, it doesn't mean you have COVID-19. You will be contacted by public health staff or you can call Healthline on 0800 358 5453. They will give you advice on what you need to do.

Call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 358 5453 if you need to speak to someone.

Visit health.govt.nz/covid-19 for more information.