

COUNTY OF COLUSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Elizabeth Kelly
Director



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HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Children's Services: (530) 458-0280
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HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION

Public Health/Nursing: (530) 458-0380
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NEWS BRIEF: Public Health to Triage Case Investigation and Contact Tracing as COVID-19 Cases Surge.

A recent surge in positive COVID-19 (Coronavirus) cases reported for Colusa County through the California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CalREDIE) system will require Colusa County Public Health (CCPH) to implement triage protocols to appropriately manage case investigation and contact tracing. These new protocols will intermittently impact disease data reported on the Colusa County website. CCPH is working to bring on additional public health staff to meet the needs of the increasing cases, and we will attempt to keep the information as current as possible.

Under these new protocols, if an individual tests positive or has had close contact with a positive case, they may not be contacted by CCPH. Contact tracing efforts must be prioritized to break chains of transmission, stop outbreaks, and respond to cases among those most at risk for COVID-19 complications. CCPH also coordinates outbreak management for congregate living facilities, schools, and child care centers.

Case investigation and contact tracing priority will be given to:

- Older adults (65 years of age and older);
- Healthcare workers;
- People at increased risk for complications and those with underlying medical conditions; and,
- High risk facilities.

What if I've tested positive for COVID-19?

Colusa County residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 should follow the instructions to safely isolate during their infection. Per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, isolation can end 10-days after the onset of symptoms (or after the specimen collection date in people without symptoms), as long as the person has been fever-free for 24-hours without fever reducing medication and symptoms are resolving. Instructions for "Isolation" can be accessed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>.

What if I've been exposed to COVID-19?

Residents who may have been exposed (close contact) to someone with COVID-19 should follow the instructions to self-quarantine, including:

- Staying home for 10-days from last day of exposure (continue to self-monitor symptoms for 14 days);
- Avoiding contact with others;
- Avoiding sharing household items; and,
- Wearing a mask if you are in contact with others, including household members.

Close contact means that a person has been within six feet of a person confirmed with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period. Instructions for "Self-Quarantine" can be accessed here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>.

The Colusa County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) would again ask that we remain diligent in ensuring compliance to the face covering Order, continue maintaining 6-ft physical distancing, continue hand washing and proper hygiene, and remain home if sick, or exposed to COVID-19.

Colusa County's COVID-19 Portal can be accessed here: <https://www.countyofcolusa.org/771/COVID19>.