COVID-19 – WHAT IS CLOSE CONTACT?

Close contact with someone who has COVID-19 is defined by public health and medical experts as someone who has:

- Had face-to-face contact with someone who has COVID \textit{for at least 15 minutes within a distance less than 6 feet}
- Touched, hugged, or had any kind of physical contact with the person with COVID
- Provided care to someone who has COVID, such as a health care worker
- Been in a closed room or space for 15 minutes, such as in a classroom, meeting room, house, car or other interior area
- Had direct contact with an ill person’s respiratory droplets. For example, have been directly sneezed on
- Been on an airplane with and had contact with someone who has COVID. This can depend upon how much the person with COVID moved about the airplane

WEARING A MASK OR FACE COVERING and avoiding touching your face can significantly reduce the risk of spreading COVID to others, or contracting COVID, and provides an important barrier to prevent the spread of COVID.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS will trace those who have had close contact with someone who has COVID. This means those who are identified by the criteria above are potentially at risk of contracting COVID if they have been in close contact with someone who is ill. Others who do not fit this criteria as being in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 may not be identified to self-isolate or as being at risk of exposure from the infected person.