

NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING PROTECTIONS

New York has several new protections for individuals participating in COVID-19 contact tracing. Here's what they mean for you:

CONTACT TRACING CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS

- Your contact tracer should speak your language.
- Your contact tracer should treat you respectfully.
- Your contact tracer should, ideally, come from your community.
- Whether or not your contact tracer is from your community, they should understand and show compassion for any community-specific concerns you might have, whether those relate to immigration status, policing and over-criminalization, multi-generational homes, racism, access to health care, the need to go to work to support your family and make rent, childcare, concerns related to gender and sexuality, pregnancy, or anything else.
- Your contact tracer should take the time to understand your needs and should work with you to address those needs so that you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe from COVID.
- Your county should report on contact tracer diversity each year. If you live outside of New York City, you should be able to find this information on your county health department's website.

CONTACT TRACING CONFIDENTIALITY

- Your contact tracer must keep your contact tracing information confidential and can only use your contact tracing information for contact tracing – unless they've explained to you, in a language you understand, what else they want to use your information for, and you've given them specific, written permission to use your information for that purpose.
 - » You can give verbal permission for contact tracers to use your information to provide resources or services to help you quarantine. This might include grocery, meal, or pharmacy delivery; laundry services; child or elder care; pet walking; assistance with telephone internet, or other communications services or devices; health care services; legal services; or living space if you can't isolate at home.
- Police officers, law enforcement agents, ICE, and immigration agents CANNOT act as contact tracers. Contact tracers cannot share information with the police, law enforcement, ICE, or any other immigration authority.

- » If law enforcement somehow gets ahold of your contact tracing information, they cannot use it against you in court or in any administrative proceeding.
- » The only time law enforcement can get anywhere near your contact tracing information is if they've been asked to enforce an individualized public health order against you. This shouldn't happen except in very rare circumstances where your behavior puts others in danger of catching COVID, and you've refused public health workers' requests to change your behavior.
- » Contact tracers are permitted to call for emergency services if they see you experiencing a medical emergency or observe, reasonably and in good faith, a child, elder, or disabled person in danger.
- Contact tracers and the Department of Health must make sure that all contact tracing information is stored securely, so that no bad actors or outside groups can get ahold of it. And non-governmental contact tracers must delete contact tracing information early and often.
- Public health researchers can use contact tracing information for public health research and evaluation purposes – such as identifying disparities in who is contracting COVID and who is getting access to care – only under the Department of Health's oversight and only if they have made sure that that contact tracing information cannot be linked back to you or to any other person.