Definitions of Commonly Used COVID-19 Terms

Antibody test-blood test that identifies antibodies to the virus. Some antibodies (IgG) begin to develop when you are sick and can be identified after you recover. Not recognized as valid at this time.

Case-someone who has COVID-19. Could infect others. Positive PCR.

Suspect Case-someone exposed to a case who develops symptoms, even if they have not been tested yet.

Confirmed/Positive Case-Must be isolated for a minimum of 10 days after symptom onset date (or specimen collection date if onset unclear or if asymptomatic) and can be released after afebrile and feeling well without fever reducing medical for at least 24 hours.

Contact-defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes cumulatively starting from 2 days before the onset of illness

Close Contact-an individual who was in contact (see above). Must be quarantined for 14 days after the last/most recent contact with the case when the case was infectious. If a close contact develops symptoms, they will follow isolation rules.

Household Contacts with separate living quarters between case and contacts-Quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to case.

Household Contacts that share a room/living quarters (ongoing contact)-Quarantine during contact and for 14 days after the case is released from isolation.

Incubation Period- time from when someone is infected until symptoms develop. Ranges from 2-14 days. 50% of people will become ill by 5 days after being infected. 5% by 2 days. 95% by 14 days.

Isolation-Separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

Polymerase Chain Reactions (PCR)-detects RNA in virus. Also called molecular test.

Quarantine-Separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

Contact Tracing-common public health tool used to limit contact between infectious people and others, limiting the transmission of the disease.