Overview: Public Health Surveillance System for tracking and preventing transmission of COVID-19

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Aim of COVID-19 Surveillance is Prevention

• Individual level
  • Case leads to action to prevent disease transmission

• Group level
  • Monitor trends over time/space
  • Identify risk factors and populations at high risk

Age – adjusted COVID-19 case rate per 100,000 population
Washington State

Washington Disease Reporting System 1/19/20-6/30/20
State and local public health agencies play lead role

- Laws and systems vary by state but have common elements
  - Mandatory case reporting
  - Case investigation
  - Contact tracing
  - Outbreak investigations /enforcement

*Local: county, city, or district depending on state.
Case reporting (labs/providers)

Isolation
- Referrals for services –
- Daily monitoring –
- End of isolation

Quarantine
- Testing
- Referral for service
- Monitoring
- End quarantine

Contact tracing/notification

Case investigation
- Identification of close contacts

Public Health
Role of employer in contact tracing

• In position to act quickly to identify and remove close contacts
  (Protecting confidentiality of the infected worker)

• Optimally: Partner with local public to identify, notify, quarantine close contacts

• Employer requirements to report COVID-19 cases to varies by jurisdictions But employers MAY report under EEOC


Need better data on employment to identify high risk workers and workplaces

- Occupation
- Industry
- Employer
- Work outside home in last 14 days

Recommended Interim Guidance for collecting employment information about COVID-19 cases


Disease-tracking network deficient, specialist say

Masked waitresses served meals at a Marina Bay restaurant in Quincy. One of the problems with COVID data collection is a lack of accounting on where a sick person works.

By Kay Lazar, Globe Staff

BOSTON GLOBE – August 4
Local Health Departments (LHD) can be important allies

**New Bedford Story**

- April – LHD getting many complaints & several closures of fish processing plants

- Workers wrote to industry and LHD

- May - Executive Order: Industrial facilities must:
  - Report workers with Covid-19 to LHD
  - Provide PPE, social distancing, disinfect work area, fever screening
  - Appoint COVID Safety Officer
  - Fines: $300/ day
Thanks to our local public health workers.

They are -often invisible - critical infrastructure workers facing monumental tasks and deserve our support and advocacy for rebuilding a robust public health system.