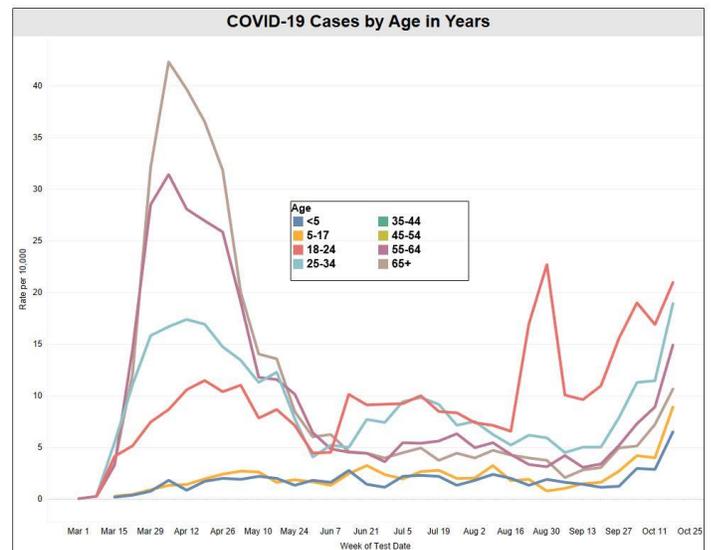
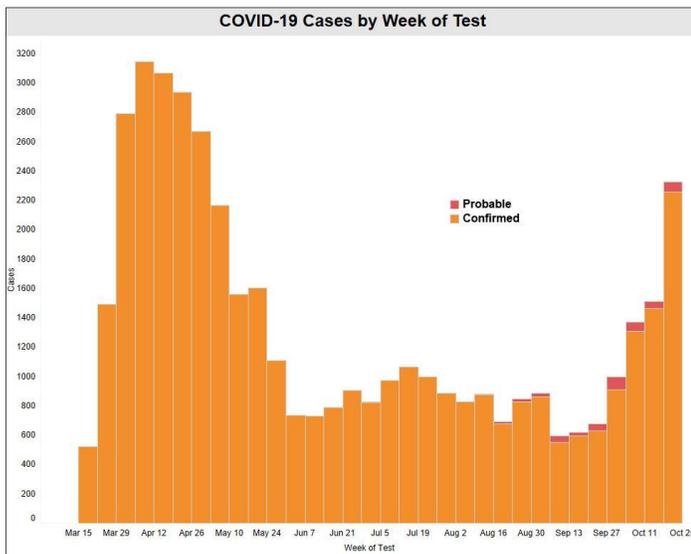


Health Advisory

Guidance in Determining Close Contacts of Persons with COVID-19

October 30, 2020

COVID-19 case counts have increased during October compared to recent months. Cases have been highest in younger adults but are increasing in all age groups. Due to these increases, the Health Department's contact tracing program is currently not reaching all contacts of cases. Providers should continue to emphasize isolation or quarantine for persons exposed to or with confirmed/suspected COVID-19 infection.



Cumulative Exposure to COVID Infected Individuals

On October 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its definition of close contact to "someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated."

It is difficult to define close contact, but certain factors increase risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, including:

- Exposure to symptomatic person, especially at start of symptom onset
- Being in closer proximity
- Longer duration of exposure
- Activities of the infected person that increase viral spread through respiratory aerosols (e.g. shouting, singing and coughing)
- Environmental factors like crowding and poor ventilation; being outdoors decreases risk of spread

Anyone outside of a healthcare setting who has had 15 minutes of cumulative exposure to an individual infected with SARS-CoV-2 during that person's infectious window should quarantine for 14 days. Testing is recommended at 5-7 days after exposure, or as soon as someone becomes symptomatic. A negative test, however, does not shorten the duration of quarantine.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Anyone with exposure to an infected person for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period is considered a close contact.
- Close contacts should quarantine for 14 days; testing is recommended 5-7 days from exposure or upon development of symptoms.
- Continue to emphasize the importance of isolation or quarantine for exposed and infected persons.

Mandatory Reporting of ALL COVID-19 Test Results to PDPH

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act mandates reporting of all COVID test results to a public health agency. It is important that PDPH receive all results of POC tests on individuals residing in Philadelphia to effectively monitor the COVID-19 epidemic.

- Inform PDPH (COVIDTesting@phila.gov) at least two weeks before initiating rapid POC testing.
 - PDPH will assist in establishing a reporting format and answer questions regarding the POC machines, test administration techniques, and testing algorithms
- Only start testing with rapid POC devices after establishing a mechanism to report results from rapid POC machines to PDPH (COVIDTesting@phila.gov).
 - The following information must be reported with COVID test results: patient's full name, date of birth, current residential address in Philadelphia and phone number, race/ethnicity, sex, testing device/test name, test result, sample collection date, and test result date.
- If you are already testing with a rapid POC device, please email COVIDTesting@phila.gov immediately.