

Effective Date: 02/10/2022

Review Date(s):

130100.00

Cochise Health and
Social Services

POLICY

(FINAL)

Public Health Standard(s): 2.3; 5.1**Cancel(s):** N/A**See Also:****Approved by:**

POL-130100.00 – COVID-19 TARGETED CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

The purpose of this policy is to define the parameters around targeted COVID-19 positive cases.

- 1. With the emergence of more infectious variants such as the Omicron, CHSS is shifting to a targeted approach to lessen the impact of COVID-19 in our community**

New variants have produced a high volume of asymptomatic and less severe cases. COVID-19 vaccination is widely available. There is an increased use of “at home test kits”, which are not reported or investigated. The highest risk of transmission to others occurs prior to symptom onset and a shorter incubation period in the Omicron variant render case investigation and contact tracing for all positive cases ineffective.

- 2. Case Investigation and Contact Tracing will only be conducted on lab confirmed cases**

Case investigation or contact tracing will NOT be conducted on any individuals who test positive using a home test kit.

- 3. The targeted population in Cochise County will be the elderly (individuals over the age of 65), school age children, and children under 5 years old who may be enrolled in daycare.**

The elderly are at highest risk for hospitalization for COVID-19 and many may not have resources to access COVID-19 information on the internet. Individuals will be asked if they would like educational materials to be mailed to them. Case Investigators will send contact information to the CHSS Epidemiologist so an educational packet can be mailed.

Schools and child-care centers are high risk settings for rapid transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

4. A point of contact will be designated for nursing homes, group homes, correctional facilities and hospitals, to contact if they experience an outbreak.

Nursing homes, group homes, correctional facilities, and hospitals are all considered high risk setting for COVID-19, however, all seem to have adequate internal methods for contact tracing. The CHSS Epidemiologist is the point of contact.

5. COVID-19 isolation and quarantine education materials will be distributed with each test administered or distributed by CHSS.

It is imperative to empower the public to act responsibly if they test positive for COVID-19. Providing COVID-19 information at the time of testing can educate the public on how to properly isolate/quarantine, teach about the importance of rapidly notifying their close contacts of their exposure and lastly when to seek urgent care for their COVID-19 symptoms.

6. Alternate key public health strategies focused on personal choice will be implemented for all COVID-19 positive cases as funding allows. These will include:

- a. Increase the number of people who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines,
- b. Implement strong messaging on the importance of mask wearing,
- c. Importance of staying home when sick,
- d. Facilitate early access to antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments for those at risk for severe illness,
- e. Increase availability of testing, and
- f. Encourage improvement of environmental measures to reduce indoor transmission of SARS-CoV-2 virus.

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Completion of the Safe Personnel course titled 130100.00 – COVID-19 TARGETED CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING documents that you have received this Policy/Procedure/Task. You have been given the opportunity to ask questions and completion of the Safe Personnel course indicates you fully understand the Policy/Procedure/Task. By completing the course, you understand that you are expected to follow and implement the Policy/Procedure/Task from this date forward.