

# What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing can stop an Ebola outbreak in its tracks



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Contact tracing** is finding everyone who comes in direct contact with a sick Ebola patient. Contacts are watched for signs of illness for 21 days from the last day they came in contact with the Ebola patient. If the contact develops a fever or other Ebola symptoms, they are immediately isolated, tested, provided care, and the cycle starts again—all of the new patient's contacts are found and watched for 21 days. **Even one missed contact can keep the outbreak going.**

