

## CONTACT TRACING

### DEFINITION

1. Contact tracing is the process of identification of people who have possibly been exposed to infectious diseases. The purpose of contact tracing is to contain the spread of the disease.

### TRIGGERS

2. MOH Contact Tracing Centre (CTC) will be activated by MOH CD Surveillance when a confirmed case(s) avian influenza is notified. MOH CTC will activate hospitals and institutions for contact tracing where necessary and will conduct contact tracing for the rest of the community.

### COMPONENTS

3. MOH CTC coordinates all contact tracing activities. The three main components of contact tracing in a typical case are as follows:

a. **Hospital Contact Tracing.** Hospitals will undertake Hospital Contact Tracing when activated by MOH CTC. This includes activity mapping and contact tracing within the hospital. Activity mapping involves establishing a history of the case's activities from 7 days prior to onset of symptoms until isolation in hospital. Hospital contacts include inpatients, outpatients, visitors and healthcare workers who have come into close contact (within 2 metres of shared space) with a case from 2 days prior to onset of symptoms until isolation in a hospital.

b. **Institution Contact Tracing.** Work units and organisations will carry out Institution Contact Tracing when activated by MOH CTC. Institution contacts include staff, visitors and any personnel under the management of the institution (e.g. contractors) who have come into close contact (within 2 metres of shared space) with a case from 2 days prior to onset of symptoms until isolation in a hospital. Guidelines on Institution Contact Tracing are available in **Appendix 1**.

c. **Community Contact Tracing.** MOH Contact Tracing Centre will carry out Community Contact Tracing when activated by MOH CD Surveillance. Community contacts include household members and social contacts who have come into close contact (within 2 metres of shared space) with a case from 2 days prior to onset of symptoms until isolation in a hospital.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTION**

4. Most contact tracing would be conducted over the phone and no standard protective measures are required. However for onsite contact tracing teams who may be interviewing contacts face-to-face, standard protective measures such as N95 mask, disposable gloves and disposable gowns, must be employed, as some contacts may be symptomatic at time of interview.