The Role of Southwest District Health's Epi-Team During COVID-19

This document outlines the role of Southwest District Health's epidemiology team during the COVID-19 pandemic. When a patient tests positive, many parties are involved, including medical providers, the health department, the patient, and in some instances, the patient's employer. Please reference the categories below to understand the role of the health department if you our one of your employees tests positive for SARS-CoV-2.

What We Do	What We Don't Do
- Receive lab results for patients who test positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 - Investigate positive cases by contacting the original patient - Create a list of close contacts named by the original patient - Notify these close contacts of their potential exposure and provide them with instructions *If the original patient worked during their infectious period, we contact the employer with the patient's consent and work with the employer to identify close contacts in the workplace* - Monitor close contacts using a daily symptom checklist - Provide Work Exclusion letters and Return to Work letters for patients and their contacts, once it is safe for them to return - Provide guidance for safe operations for businesses - Compile our findings from our investigation	- Order COVID-19 tests for patients - Determine who gets tested and who does not - Provide test results to employees - Provide test results to employers without the patient's consent - Notify patients of negative results *A patient's provider should notify them of their result, whether positive or negative. We follow up with those who test positive to conduct our investigations, contact tracing, and monitoring* - Order businesses to close - Order businesses to reopen - Link employee information to specimen samples

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