CONTAINING COVID CLUSTERS

UCI’s COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program is designed to facilitate control of cases and contacts by identifying clusters and implementing public health mitigation measures.

UCI’s Contact Tracing Team members and campus staff are here to support you throughout the entire process until you are cleared.

With your careful behavior and UCI’s robust contact tracing, we can move forward.

WHAT IS A CLUSTER?

Clusters are two or more cases connected in time and place.

Clusters are identified when...

Data and other information gathered from contact tracing help to place people at shared locations and events, such as a party, a lab or workspace, or a residence hall.

Data and information are gathered in a number of ways, including:

- UCI contact tracers conduct interviews with individuals identified as “cases” or “contacts.”
- The OC Health Care Agency who lets UCI know of a situation in which community members will be at high risk for virus exposure.

CASE - A person found to be positive for COVID-19 on a PCR test.

CONTACT - An individual who has been less than 6 feet from a COVID-19-positive case for 15 minutes or more. UCI Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) reports about specific situations in which protective equipment was not in use or there has been potential exposure to a positive case.

The information provided is current as of Oct. 6, 2020.

For the latest information, please visit uci.edu/coronavirus
COMBINING CLUSTERS

The health and wellness of our community is our top priority, and communication is key to managing this well.

Take the Call
If you get a call from 949-824-2300, please take the call.

If you are called, it is because either you are positive for COVID-19 or are a close contact of someone who is COVID-19-positive. Cases will be interviewed to determine possible exposure locations and to identify close contacts. Close contacts will be called and notified of the date of exposure, and both cases and close contacts will be provided with instructions on what they need to do.

Please be honest and complete in answering interview questions.

Protecting Your Information
We recognize that you may have reasons for not wanting to share where you’ve been and who you have been with. Our goal is to control the spread of COVID-19, and it’s imperative that you do your best to answer all of the questions asked by the contact tracer.

UCI safeguards individually identifiable health information to prevent unauthorized use or disclosure. UCI also does not provide individually identifiable information from the UCI COVID-19 Contact Tracing Program to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

CLUSTER RESPONSE

Details and Response Times Matter
The specific details of the links among cases that define a cluster play a large role in response steps. However, the following actions generally describe how UCI will respond to a cluster of cases:

> UCI’s contact tracers will consult with the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) on cluster investigations and recommend steps to control spread from the cluster.

> If a cluster is identified, the UCI Contact Tracing Program will interview cases and close contacts associated with the cluster event or location and will receive instructions for isolation or quarantine and further testing.

Connecting the Dots
The Contact Tracing Program’s work continues by looking for connections within and between identified clusters.

> Thorough interviews will help determine if clusters may be associated, in which case OCHCA will be consulted on further mitigating measures, including the quarantine of additional people.

> Off-campus housing community management may be notified of associated clusters and advised by OCHCA.

For more information, please visit uci.edu/coronavirus