COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing
Cherokee Nation Public Health

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TA and Staffing

- TA
  - We received TA assistance from Oklahoma State Health Department, Tulsa County Health Department and the CDC on guidance for case investigations

- Staffing
  - 15 Trained case investigators
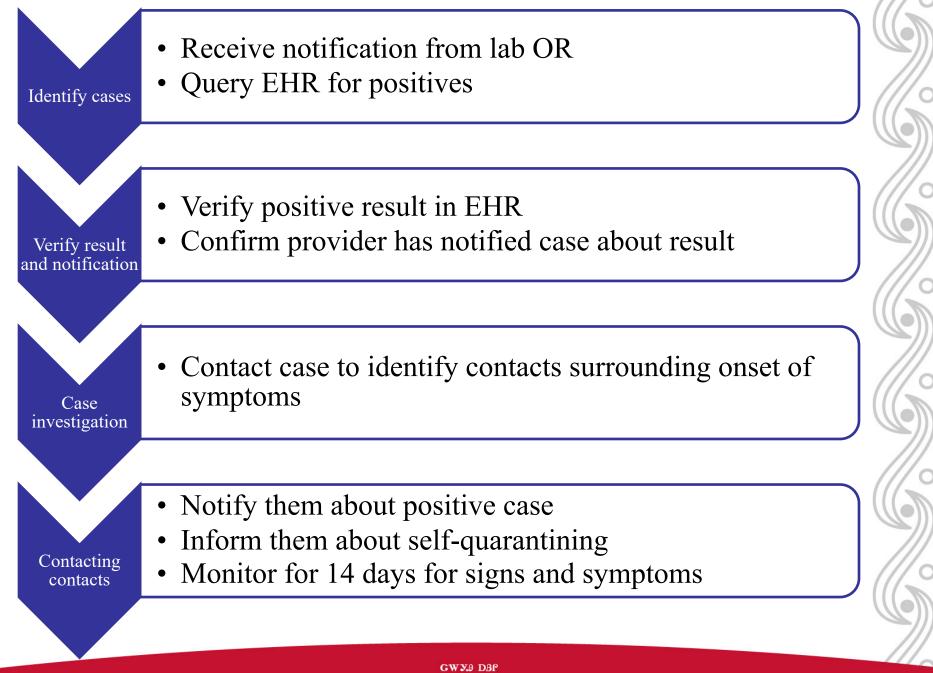 - 5 additional contact tracers to call and follow-up with contacts

Case Definition

- Initial COVID-19 case definition (suspected positive case)
  - Showing COVID-19 signs/symptoms and being tested for COVID-19

- Current COVID-19 case definition
  - Lab confirmed positive test result

Identify cases
- Receive notification from lab OR
- Query EHR for positives

Verify result and notification
- Verify positive result in EHR
- Confirm provider has notified case about result

Case investigation
- Contact case to identify contacts surrounding onset of symptoms

Contacting contacts
- Notify them about positive case
- Inform them about self-quarantining
- Monitor for 14 days for signs and symptoms

Identify Cases and Verify Information

- Email notification about positive results from the Cherokee Nation hospital lab

- Query our EHR for positives

- Verify positive result in EHR and make sure a provider has notified patient about positive results

Case Investigation

- Identify date of symptom onset
- Start contact tracing 2 days prior to that date
    - Where have they been
    - Who have they been around
    - Define a close contact
    - Get phone numbers for the close contacts
- Describe self-isolation within the home
- Describe self-quarantine for household contacts

Contacting Contacts

- Notify contact about exposure to positive case
- Collect demographic information
- Ask about symptoms and symptom severity
- Provide self-quarantine guidance
  - Track temperature twice a day
  - Monitor for cough, shortness of breath, sore throat
  - Do not leave home or have visitors
  - Keep distance from household members not exposed to case
- If requested, we also provide a note indicating quarantine recommendation

Contacting Contacts

- Notify they will receive calls daily/non-daily
- Provide them following contact information:
  - Epi hotline number
  - Hospital number
  - COVID-19 call center
- Follow-up calls
  - Usually quick calls to see if they have developed symptoms of COVID-19
  - Test them if they become symptomatic
- Release from quarantine

Results

Confirmed Positive Cases	Active Cases	Negative Cases	Closed Cases	Current # of Contacts	Total # of Contacts followed
35	23	218	236	44	565

Issues/Problems

- Normal growing pains of implementing a new program

- Communication with the state on cases we are following

- Multiple departments/people calling same individuals

- HIPAA concerns

- Case investigation and contact tracing staffing issues when healthcare services open back up to pre-COVID period

Questions

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