



Delivering a Healthy WA

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a process used to stop the spread of many different infections.

This pamphlet only looks at sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood-borne viruses (BBVs) such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B.

Who is a contact?

A contact is anyone with whom you have had unsafe sex and/or blood-to-blood contact.

- Sex includes unprotected vaginal, anal and/or oral sex.
- Blood-to-blood contact can occur through injecting drug use, body piercing, tattooing or sharing personal items.

What is contact tracing?

Contact tracing involves finding and informing the contacts of a person with an infection so they can get counselling, testing and treatment if necessary.

Why is contact tracing important?

Contact tracing is important:

- To stop the spread of infection in the community.
- To prevent long-term health problems.

People often do not know they have an STI or BBV and unknowingly spread it to others.

Who does contact tracing?

You can do contact tracing yourself and/or with the help of a health professional.

Discuss this with your doctor.

How is contact tracing done?

Contact tracing should be voluntary.

If you have been found to have an STI or BBV, you will be asked to list your contacts (names and other details).

Decide which contacts you want to inform about the infection and which ones you would prefer a health professional to inform.

Contact tracing is confidential. Your name or any identifying information will NOT be disclosed to your contact by the health professional.



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Whether you or a health professional talk to your contact, they should be told that:

- they could have the infection and
- they need to get tested.

Where can I go for help?

Confidential counselling, testing and treatment for STIs and BBVs and advice about contact tracing are available from GPs, sexual health clinics and other health agencies.

For more information:

Sexual Health Helpline

(08) 9227 6178 1800 198 205 (toll-free)

Royal Perth Hospital (Sexual Health Clinic)

(08) 9224 2178

Fremantle Hospital (Infectious Diseases B2 Clinic)

(08) 9431 2149

or your local Population Health Unit:

Albany +61 8 9842 7500

Broome +61 8 9194 1630

Bunbury +61 8 9781 2350

Carnarvon +61 8 9941 0560

Geraldton +61 8 9956 1985

Kalgoorlie-Boulder +61 8 9080 8200

Northam +61 8 9622 4320

South Hedland +61 8 9172 8333

Note to GPs and other health professionals:

The Department of Health's publication *Guidelines for Managing Sexually Transmitted Infections 2006* provides detailed information about contact tracing procedures and is available at: http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/231/2/guidelines_for_.pm

Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program

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