**What is contact tracing?**

Contact tracing can stop the Ebola outbreak in its tracks.

**Contact tracing** is finding everyone who comes in direct contact with a sick Ebola patient. Contacts are watched for signs of illness for 21 days from the last day they came in contact with the Ebola patient. If the contact develops a fever or other Ebola symptoms, they are immediately isolated, tested, provided care, and the cycle starts again—all of the new patient’s contacts are found and watched for 21 days. **Even one missed contact can keep the outbreak going.**

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**Diagram:**

- **Ebola Patient:** Isolate & Provide Care
- **Ask about contacts**
- **Watch contacts for symptoms of sickness for 21 days**
- **Repeat cycle until no new patients**
- **21 days**
- **If contact shows symptoms:** Isolate, test, and provide care
  - **Ask about contacts**
  - **Watch contacts for symptoms of sickness for 21 days**
- **If contact shows no symptoms after 21 days:** If contact not at risk of developing Ebola
- **? Missed contact**
  - **May spread Ebola to new contacts**
- **If contact shows symptoms again:** Isolate, test, and provide care
  - **Ask about contacts**
  - **If no contacts, no further spread**

**Contact tracing finds new cases quickly so they can be isolated to stop further spread.**