HEAL Webinar
Public Health Strategies – COVID19 and the Central Valley

Dr Charles Daramola
Public Health Professor at Bakersfield College.
September 22, 2020
Importance of Contact Tracing

• “Contact tracing is an essential tool used to decrease the spread of infectious disease and has been effectively employed during other health emergencies, such as the H1N1 pandemic in America and Ebola outbreaks in Africa”

• Contact tracing has been described as one of the “four building blocks” of a public health response. Other building blocks include: adequate supplies of PPE, expanding testing, and ensuring [State] has ample hospital surge capacity for infections.

• “Effective use of contact tracing is a critical step in decreasing the number of COVID-19 cases”
Contact Tracing in California

• In May of 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom launched “California Connected” with the goal of providing a state wide contact tracing program and public awareness campaign

• The goal was to train and launch 10,000 contact tracers statewide as part of its plan to reopen California.

• But like many parts of the country contact tracing has varying levels of success

• Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal government’s top infectious disease expert, has stressed the importance of contact tracing but said “it’s not going well” despite an influx of federal money.
Contact Tracing in the Central Valley - Concerns

- Contact tracing in the Central Valley has also experienced varying levels of success:
- Contact tracing stalled by fear and embarrassment
- Concern over quarantine and fear losing a paycheck. Missing rent
- Immigrants worry information could be shared with authorities
- Some decline due to embarrassment
- General distrust and refuse to share information – especially among minority communities – which have been hit hardest by Covid 19
Contact Tracing in the Central Valley - Concerns (continued)

• Some areas in the Valley only doing case investigations — reaching out to infected people to tell them to quarantine but not asking about their close contacts or the places they’ve been recently.

• A news report quotes Emily Gurley, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health: “There is no place in the world that has successfully limited transmission without a contact tracing program,”
Contact Tracing – Keys to success

• Partner with local groups in training contact tracers
  • Bakersfield College Contact Tracing course (discussed on next slide)

• Partner with local groups in deploying contact tracers
  • County Department of Health
  • Trusted community members/stakeholders
  • Community based not profit organizations
  • Local churches and civic organizations
Bakersfield College Contact Tracing Course

- Contact Tracing class
- About 180 students have completed one college credit contact tracing class.
- Opening additional classes as needed
Contact tracing is one of the interventions that has been used to successfully control recent pandemics (Ebola, SARS), and has shown to be effective against COVID-19 relief in many countries including the U.S.

What to expect:
• You will learn about infectious diseases with a focus on developing contact tracing skills.
• You will gain a deeper understanding of infectious disease theory and get a chance to apply learned skills in contact tracing.
• Students will learn public health professional skills needed for entry-level positions in health education, and will get the opportunity to apply learned skills in a real-world environment.

INFECTIONIOUS DISEASE CONTACT TRACING COURSE
PBHS B99: 1 College Credit. 1 week online class.
CRN 75698 September 14 - September 19, 2020
CRN 75696 September 28 - October 2, 2020

Sign up today and learn contact tracing to help your community beat COVID-19 and all other future pandemics!

What does a contact tracer do?
• Conduct telephone interviews with individuals newly diagnosed with COVID-19, and trace contacts exposed to the virus.
• Communicate with cases and contacts in a professional and empathetic manner.
• Provide follow-up instructions to cases and their contacts, monitor and document symptoms if patients are in isolation and/or quarantine.
• Assess person needs for medical care and/or support services, provide referrals using organization approved resource or list.
• Follow organization approved scripts and protocols, to provide people with information and refer them to testing sites according to rules.
• Protect and maintain individual privacy and confidentiality.

Contact Tracer Pay Range: $17.00-$32.00 per hour

For registration information, contact
Jo Ann Acosta, Educational Advisor at (661) 395-4667
Appointments at (661) 395-4421

For more information, contact Dr. Charles Daramola at charles.daramola@bakersfieldcollege.edu
Sources

- [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx)
- [https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/contact-tracing)
- [file:///C:/Users/00707797/OneDrive%20-%20Kern%20Community%20College%20District/Contact%20Tracing%20Course-Flyer%20dates%204.pdf](file:///C:/Users/00707797/OneDrive%20-%20Kern%20Community%20College%20District/Contact%20Tracing%20Course-Flyer%20dates%204.pdf)