



## NEW Online Contact Tracing Portal for Schools

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) is excited to roll out the new **Online Contact Tracing Portal for Schools**. The portal can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/schoolsCTportal>

All schools (including daycare, childcare, and K-12<sup>th</sup> grade and higher education schools) should report cases of confirmed COVID-19 in students and staff to SCPH by using our online reporting portal for schools. This new system will replace the current reporting and contact tracing form and should facilitate easier and faster reporting for schools and improve visibility of COVID-19 transmission in our community.

### What's New?

- When entities report cases through the current reporting and contact tracing form, you fill out information on staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19, including demographic data, information about potential contacts, locations they have visited, as well as other information. SCPH's new online portal will allow schools to report positive cases and contacts through an [Online Contact Entry Form](#). This form will let you enter all the school case and contact information and will repopulate every time you access the portal.
- This easy to use platform is an intuitive survey format.
- SCPH and Schools Team staff will be able to export an excel list with information on cases and outbreaks.

### Benefits of Using the New Platform:

- **Increased confidentiality:** The Qualtrics platform provides confidential tracing in an automated environment that is compliant with all Federal, State and local privacy laws. The solution does not employ automatic location tracking technology. Fewer people need access to personal medical information in the Qualtrics platform compared to traditional non-automated tracing. Limiting access to individual-level information strengthens patient privacy by reducing the chance of inadvertent data breaches due to human error.
- **Timely outreach:** Paper tracing forms can lead to some delay in case investigation and contact tracing. Automated platforms can aid in decreasing delay but alerting health officials in a timely manner.
- **Improved data collection:** The automated platform includes and expands upon fields such as demographic data, information about potential contacts, and potential sports affiliation. Schools with more than one case are able to easily link new cases to previous cases to better monitor outbreaks. Improved data collection through automation will assist in detecting patterns and disproportionate effects of COVID-19 in our communities.

*As a reminder, reporting to the local health officer the presence of a positive case of COVID-19 in an individual who is or has been present on a K-12 public or private school campus is necessary to protect the health and safety of students and employees present on the campus. California law (17 C.C.R. section 2508) also requires anyone in charge of a K-12 public or private school kindergarten to report at once to the local health officer the presence or suspected presence of any of the communicable disease, which includes COVID-19.*