Your role, providing all contacts, is key to stopping the spread of disease.

1. **Patient asked about contacts.**
   - **Patient Isolated & Provided Care**
   - Contact shows symptoms & is isolated, tested & provided care.
   - Patient asked about contacts.
   - Contacts watched for symptoms for a certain number of days.
   - Cycle repeats until there are no new patients.

2. **Patient asked about their contacts.**
   - **Patient Isolated & Provided Care**
   - Contact shows symptoms & is isolated, tested & provided care.
   - Public health system works to eliminate missed contacts.
   - If no contacts, no further spread of the disease.

3. **Contacts will be watched for symptoms for a certain number of days.**
   - **Patient Isolated & Provided Care**
   - Missed contact may spread disease to new contacts.
   - Contact shows no symptoms after a certain number of days.
   - Contact not at risk of developing the disease.

- Contact tracing tracks and prevents the spread of disease.
- Epidemiologists find everyone that has been in contact with a sick patient.
- Contacts are watched for symptoms for a certain number of days.

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If you are diagnosed with certain diseases, you will be asked by a local public health official—an epidemiologist—about everyone with whom you have had contact. The epidemiologist will talk to each person and ask them about their health. This is called contact tracing, and is a core public health function.