

Campus email – sent August 3, 2020 to all students and employees

One of the important ways to combat COVID-19 is through contact tracing. In other words, developing a map of people infected individuals have had close contact with in order to prevent further spread of the illness.

Contact tracing is a shared responsibility. As a college, we are responsible for assisting with this process in the event that an LCC student or employee should contract the virus, if they have been on campus within a certain period of time.

We've been informed by the county that **there are people trying to take advantage of the situation to turn an illegal profit**. They are doing so by posing as contact tracers, calling random people to tell them they have been exposed to the virus, then gathering personal information and attempting to charge a processing fee.

What you can do:

- If you receive a contact tracing call, ask the person to give their name and the agency they're calling from.
- Tell them you'd like to verify the authenticity of the call, and get a phone number where you can call them back. If it's a scam, they will most likely hang up (but not necessarily).
- Verify that the number belongs to the agency identified in the initial call before returning the call by looking online or in the phone book, and/or call the agency to confirm that the individual is an employee charged with contact tracing.
- **DO NOT provide highly confidential information such as a Social Security Number, or credit or debit card number.**

Legitimate contact tracers will never attempt to charge you a processing fee.

In other news about contact tracing, Gov. Jay Inslee issued a proclamation last week related to the state's contact tracing efforts and personal information protection. [Proclamation 20-64](#) exempts personally identifiable information collected by COVID-19 case investigators from public disclosure. Note: the proclamation does not provide additional exemptions for employees or volunteers who are conducting the contact tracing work, as the Public Records Act already exempts many types of personal information relating to public employees and volunteers.

For more information related to LCC's efforts regarding COVID-19, please visit our website at <https://lowercolumbia.edu/resources/emergency/emergency.php>