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### **Be Part of the Solution for this Pandemic**

Contact tracing to slow the transmission of the coronavirus is only as good as the information that infected people report when they are interviewed. The objective of contact tracing is to identify the people that may have gotten the infection from a known case of COVID-19, and then ask those potentially infected people to quarantine to prevent further spread of the virus. The Talbot County Health Department is becoming more concerned about the resistance of infected individuals to provide names of people with whom they have had close contact before the onset of their symptoms. Some infected and suspected cases are also reluctant to reveal information about gatherings they have attended prior to their symptoms. After maybe a week of investigation, a pattern appears and upon further questioning one of the cases will admit to a gathering that was attended a week before all became ill. And still individuals refuse to name everyone at the party. It may be embarrassing to host an event and then have several that attended test positive for COVID-19, but not providing information that can help stop the spread of the virus to other people is putting lives at risk.

Our contact tracers have had infected cases deny having household contacts, and then cases are reported for the same address a couple of days later. Individuals asked to quarantine have promised to do so but then left their house and mingled with others because they did not feel bad. While one person may have a mild case, that individual can spread the virus to someone that will have a severe case or even die due to COVID-19.

As Health Officer of Talbot County, I am begging all of you to help us protect the lives of people that could die with COVID-19. If you are being interviewed because you are a confirmed case of COVID-19, please provide all the information asked of you and become part of the protection solution for this pandemic.

Fredia Wadley, MD

Health Officer Talbot County

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