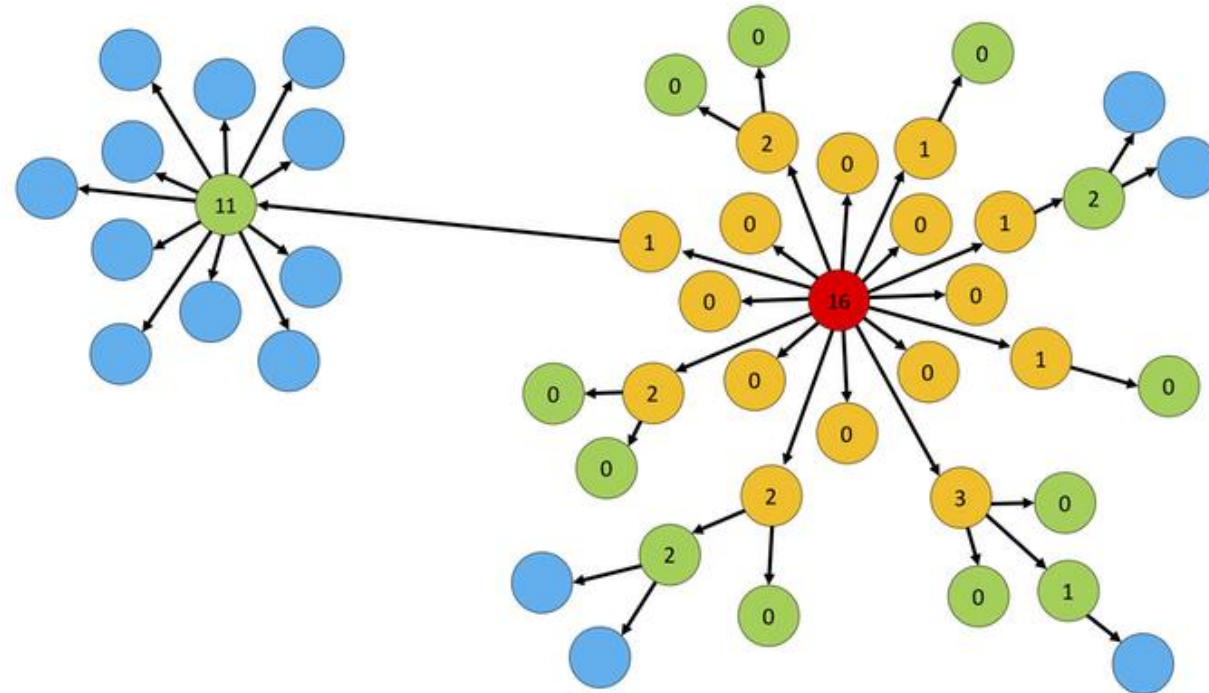


Cluster investigation

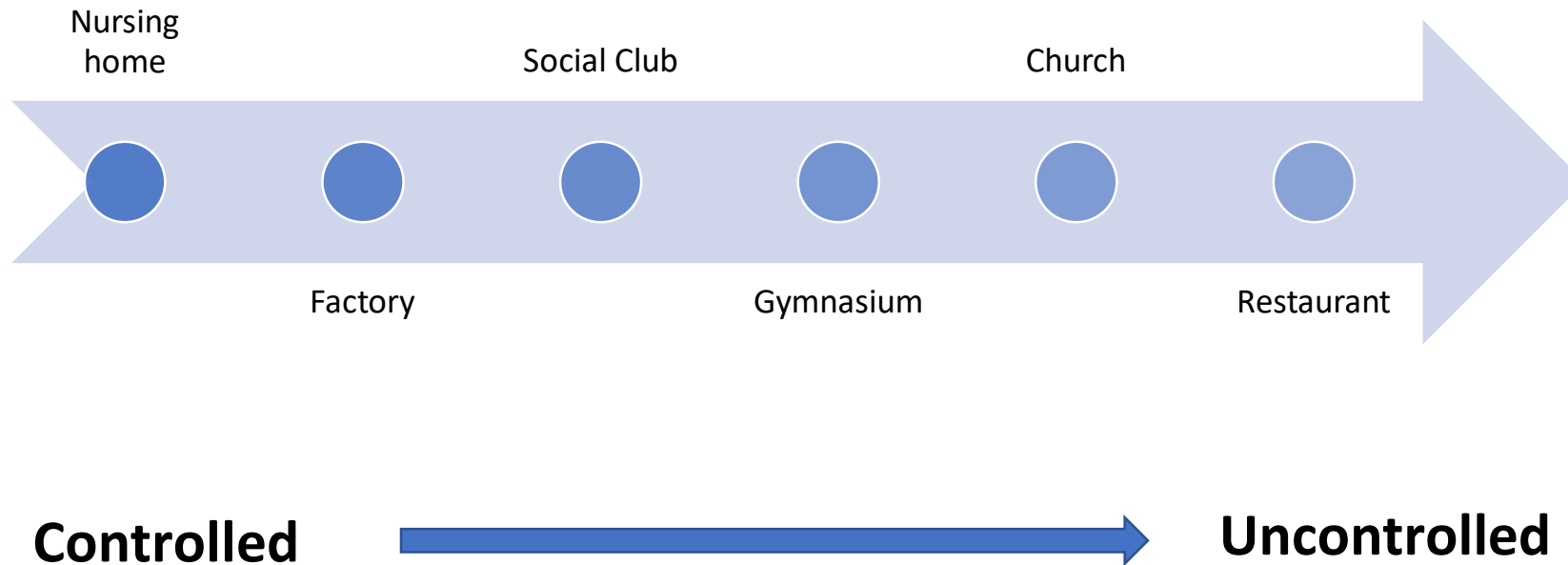
How to obtain actionable intelligence

COVID is a clustering disease

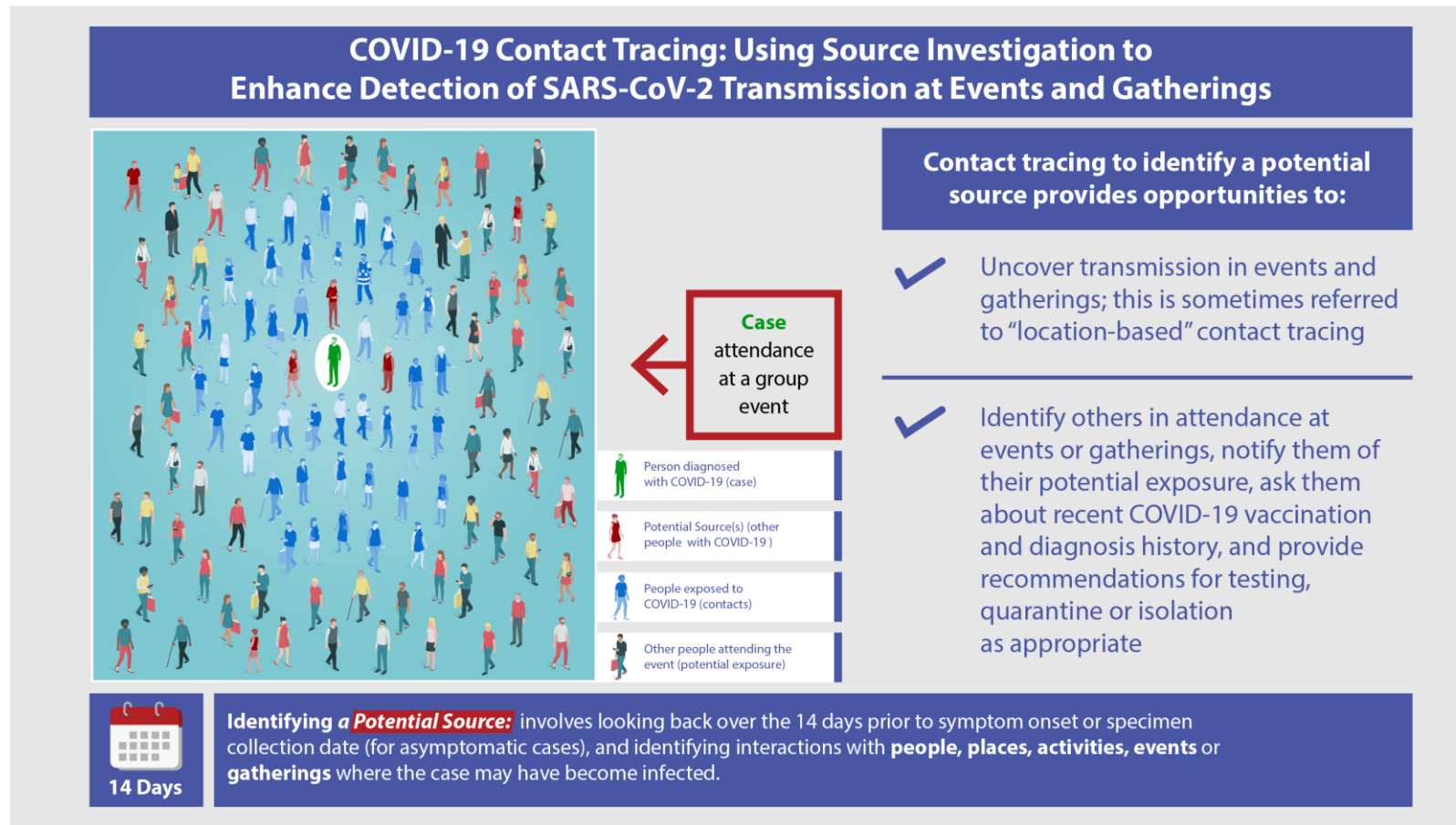


"Is the K number the new R number? What you need to know" The Conversation (June 26, 2020)

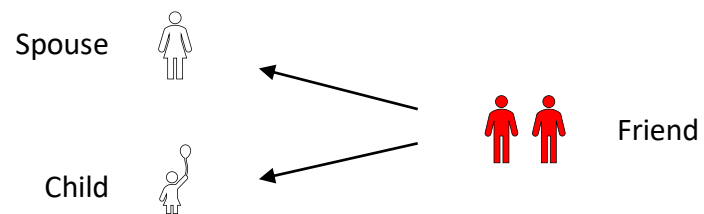
Cluster detection in uncontrolled settings



Source investigation = retrospective tracing = backward tracing



"Who could you have infected?"



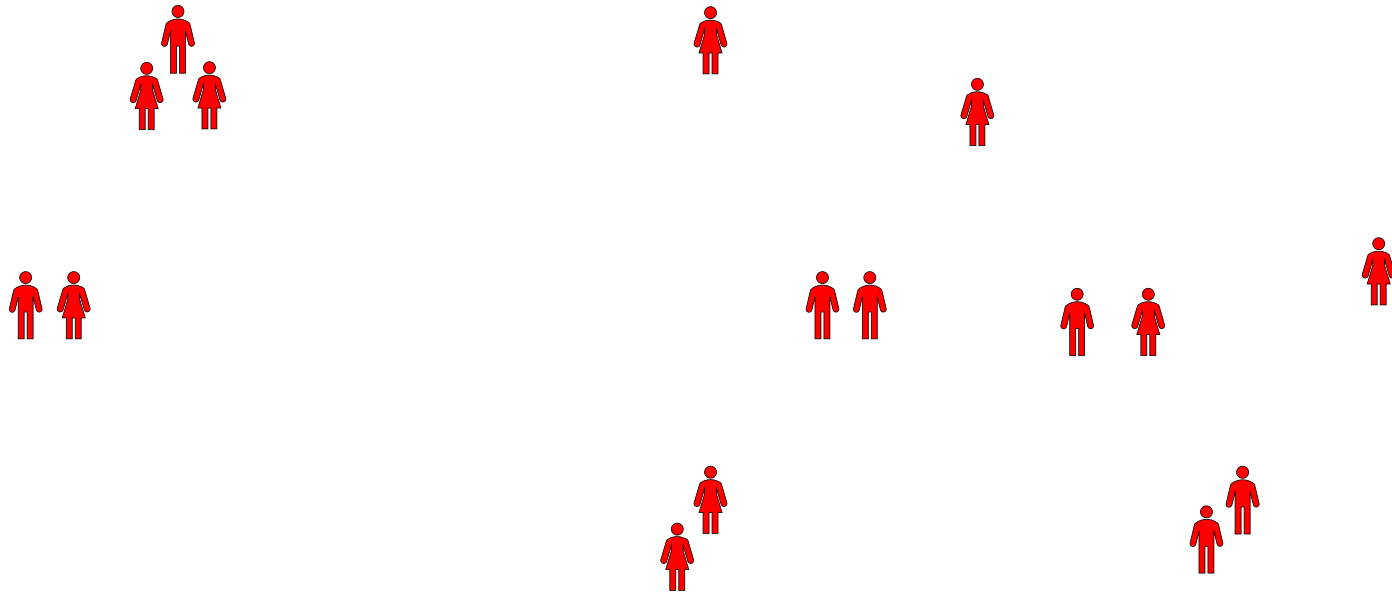
Pathomes of fytst hinh kaysa l'weo etinfes?



Backward tracing → forward tracing



Forward tracing alone will not find all cases



Location-based tracing → location-based prevention



Pandemic likely to shift in coming months

- More localized outbreaks (perhaps caused by new variants).
- More "uncontrolled" cluster types (e.g. restaurants, workplaces, places of worship).
- Decreased testing (i.e. more hidden cases).

Cluster investigation allows proactively finding/responding to these outbreaks

- Coordinated with **testing, tracing, support** for isolation/quarantine, **vaccinations**, and **sector-specific advice**.
- Good way to find unvaccinated pockets, communicate with those individuals, and help them get vaccinated.

Cluster investigation: practical ideas

Who calls locations?

- Case investigators/contact tracers can be trained in retrospective tracing.
 - Talking with business owners.
 - Local testing/vaccination options.

Who provides guidance?

- Small specialized cluster team of epidemiologists, experienced case investigators/contact tracers.

Cluster investigation: state-level considerations

Cluster investigations are most efficient and effective with:

- **Staff dual-trained in retrospective and prospective contact tracing**
- **Educated owners/management** (who keep patron lists).
- **Data collection system** that is easy-to-use, searchable, and analyzable.
- **Data sharing** across jurisdictions (towns, counties, etc.).
- Availability of **vaccination and support services**.