



# Cracking the Case

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# Agenda

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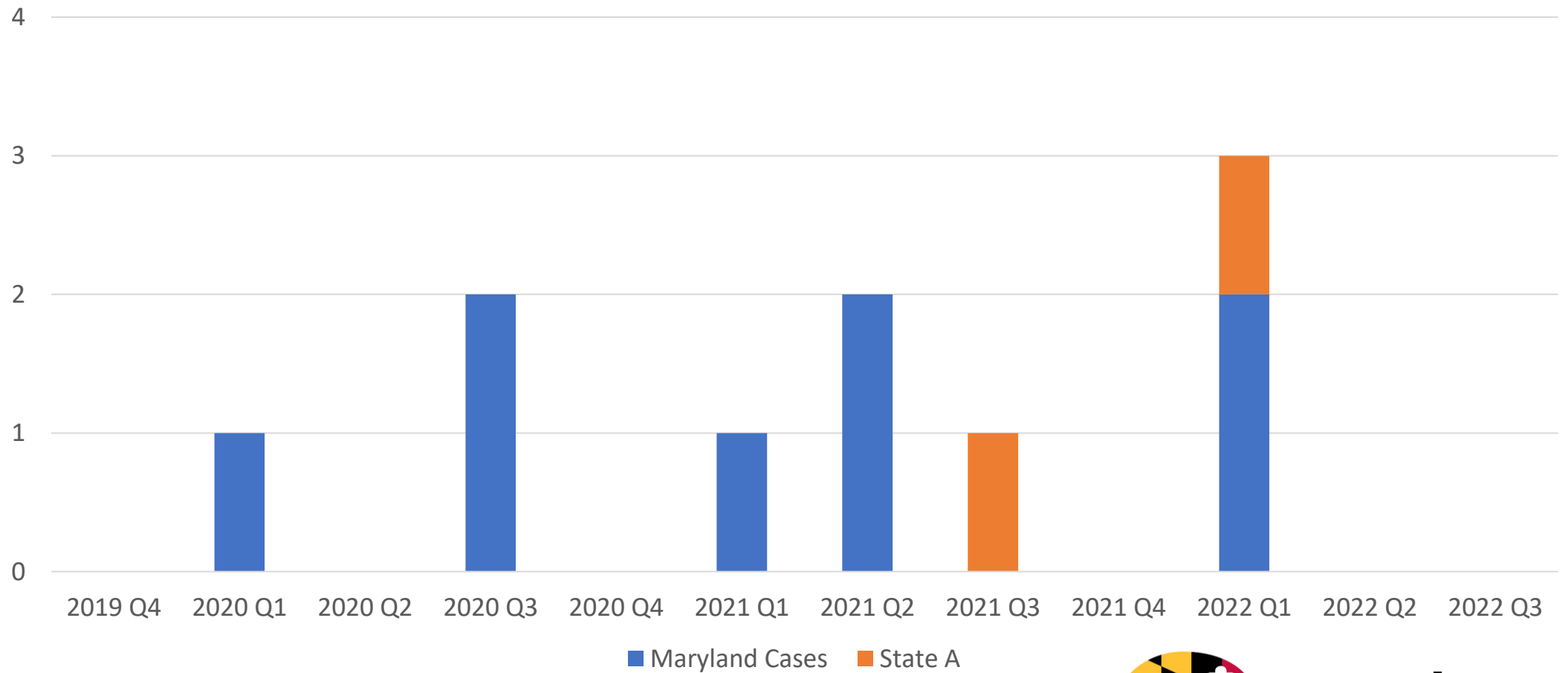
- Background
- Interviewing and Re-interviewing
- Contact Investigation Activities

# Background Information

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- Infant with TB meningitis diagnosed spring 2020
  - US-born
  - Mother non-US-born
  - Pandemic “shut-down” happened around the same time
- Source case investigation did not reveal a TB case
  - Mother diagnosed with LTBI, treated
  - Repeated contact with the others identified
    - Did not keep appointments for testing
    - Denied TB symptoms during phone conversations
- Genotyping results for infant did not reveal a source case
  - CDC searched WGS results nation-wide
- Genotyping results 5 months later
  - Another case in a different county
- 7 additional cases that match by genotype

# Epidemiologic Curve of Cluster



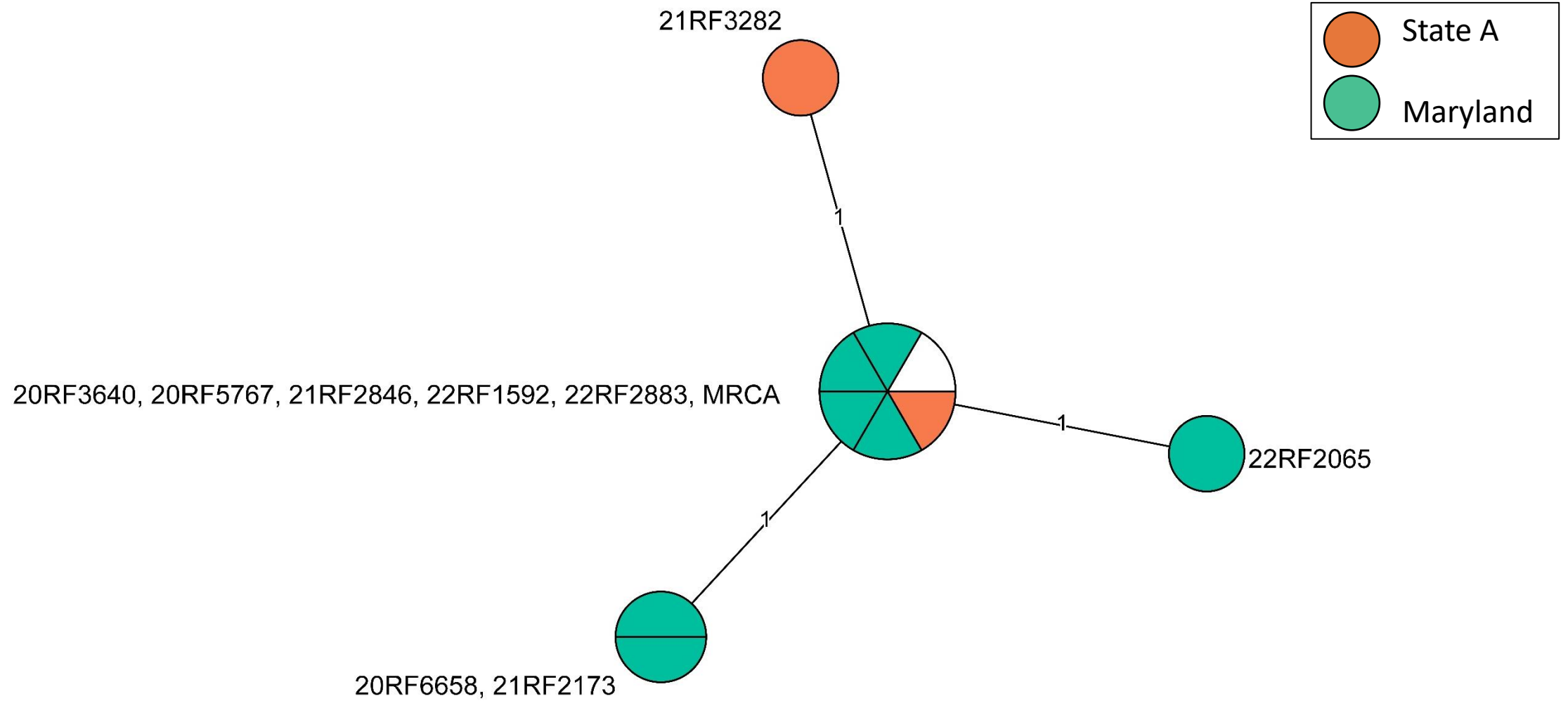
# Demographic Information

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- Multi-jurisdictional residence of cases
  - 2 counties in Maryland
  - 2 counties in State A
- Age range
  - < 1 year old – 65+
- Countries of Birth
  - United States
  - Haiti
  - Guatemala
- 70% Male
- No other risk factors reported

# Genotyping

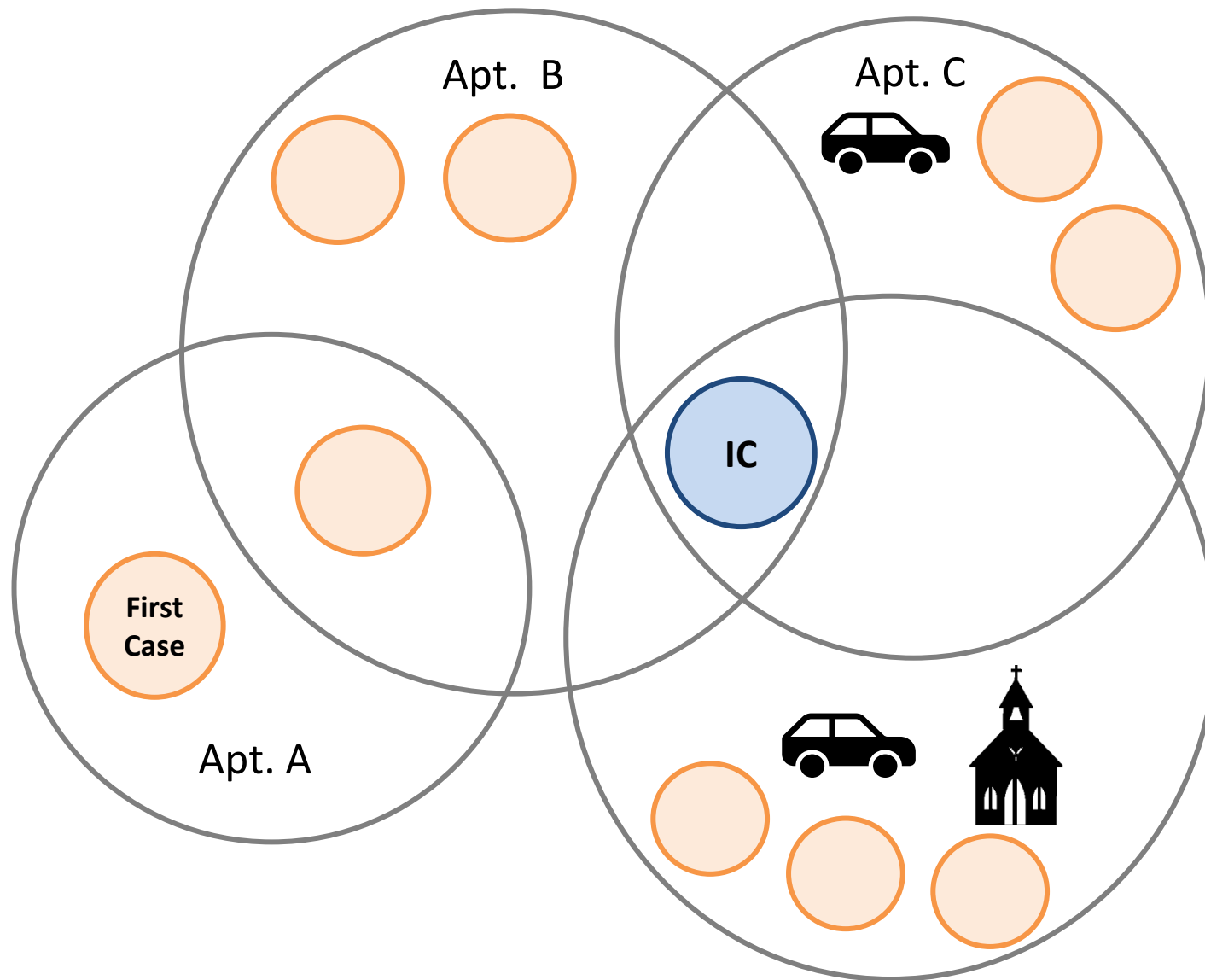
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# Locations

## Index case (IC)

- Lived in 2-3 different places during infectious period
  - 2 different states
  - 2 different counties in MD
- Attended church
- Carpooled to work and church



# Pre-Interview

- 29-year-old male from Guatemala
- Hospitalized with cough, hemoptysis, fever, night sweats, weight loss
- Pulmonary, Cavitory, miliary, disseminated TB
- RIPE started 8/28/2020
- Interviewed by LHD 9/3/20



# First Interview

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Establish Rapport

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Basic questions

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Who do you live with?

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Work? Church?

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Establish infectious period

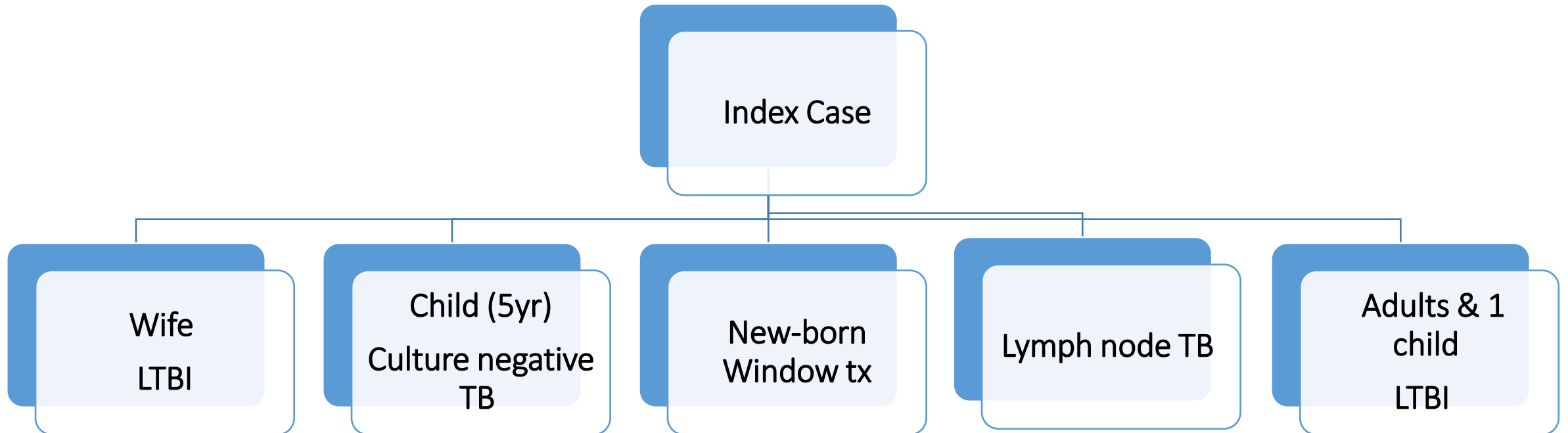
*Household and Apartment Complex*

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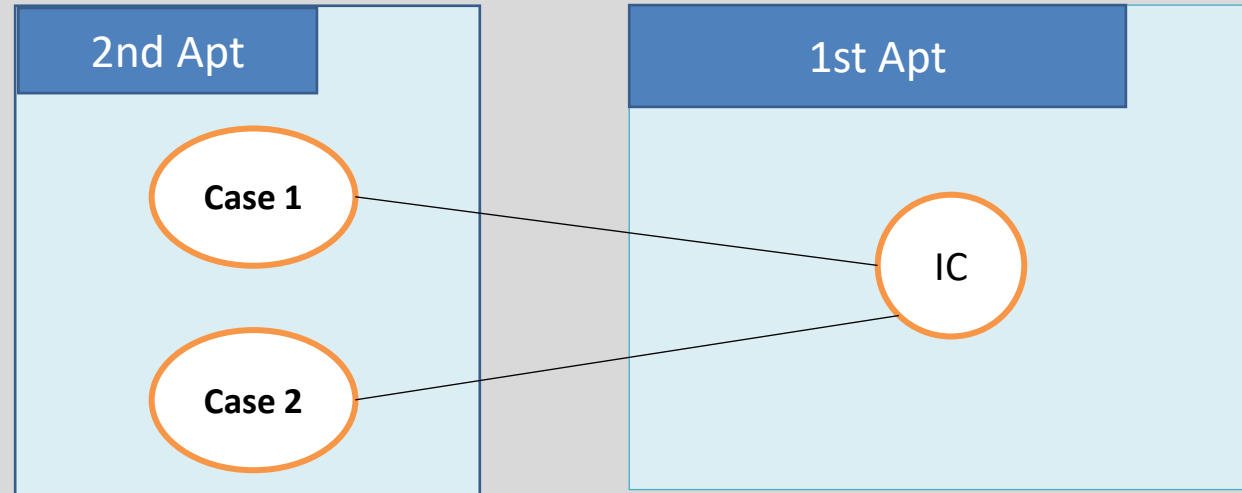
# **Contact Investigation**

# Household contacts: Index case

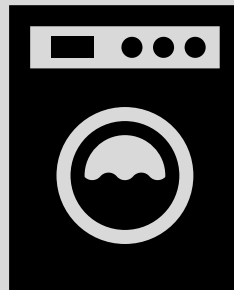
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# Apartment Complex



Shared laundry in basement.



# 2 More Cases-Same Apartment Building

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- Mother and Son lived in adjacent apartment
- 69-year-old female from Haiti
  - Pulmonary, Cavitory TB
  - French and English Speaking
  - Started on RIPE on 9/6/2020
- 39-year-old male from Haiti
  - Pleural TB
  - RIPE started 1/19/2021
  - Interviewed for possible links to index case
    - None identified

# Apartment complex Contact Investigation

Collaborate  
with building  
manager

Visualize  
building  
structure

Shared  
spaces, HVAC  
system

Identify other  
residents

Establish  
connections

Expand  
contact  
investigation

Social  
gatherings

# Apartment complex: Contact investigation

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- DOT worker
- Spanish speaking
- Did testing onsite at Apartment Complex
- Flexibility, Drew blood before 6 am

# Additional Cases Identified

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- Re-interviewing
- Additional information about family obtained
- Church listed as a common place
- Other cases named the index case during interviews
  - Provided additional information about church activities



# Church

- Contact investigation for time period June 2019-February 2020
- Church closed March 2020 through September 2020 due to COVID-19
- 2 site visits conducted
- Testing done onsite and at clinic
  - 80 tested to-date

# Challenges

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Height of Covid

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Mistrust

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Invasion of Privacy

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Limited information

# **Strengths**

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Ongoing essential services

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Experience & Flexibility

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Collaboration

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Bilingual services

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Good rapport

# Summary

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- Ongoing outbreak started during pandemic “shut-down” in Spring 2020
  - Difficulty with onsite contact investigations during this time
  - Delayed diagnosis of cases leading to long infectious period
    - Due to COVID-19 pandemic?
- Cases and contacts reluctant to share information
  - Information gathered over time from different sources
- Developing rapport and building trust are key!
- Collaboration with States and Counties



# Questions

# Contact Information

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