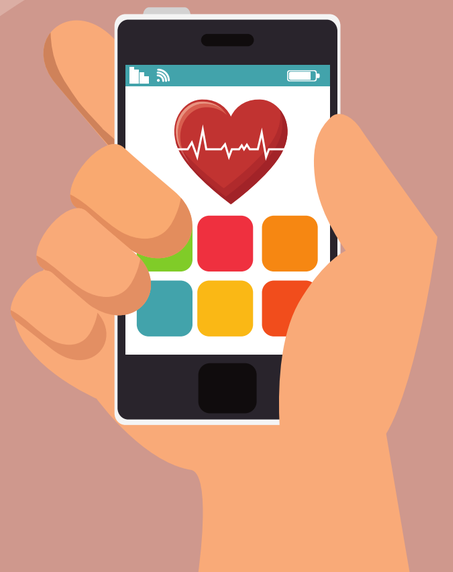
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's

COVID-19 Recovery Call

Exposure Notification & Contact Tracing Apps

Wednesday, August 26, 2020



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Contact Tracing & Exposure Notification Apps
    a. ABTraceTogether
        i. *Dr. Jia Hu*, Medical Officer of Health - Alberta Health Services
        ii. *Quinn Mah*, Executive Director, Information Management, Alberta Health
    b. COVID Alert - Canada's Federal Exposure Notification App
        i. *Assistant Deputy Minister Marc Fortin*, COVID-19 Task Force, Health Canada
    c. Virginia's COVIDWISE Exposure Notification App
        i. *Suresh Soundararajan*, Chief Information Officer, Virginia Department of Health
3. Brief Round Robin Updates from States, Provinces, and Territories
    a. Please keep remarks to 2 minutes per jurisdiction
4. Next Call - September 23, 2020

Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

Alberta TraceTogether Update

August 26, 2020

Why is mobile contact tracing an important tool?

Contact tracing apps can **improve, but not replace, manual contact tracing**; this is critical to a **better public health response** and **safer, more rapid reopening**

- Contact tracing is **conducted by Public Health for the identification and follow-up of people** who may have come into contact with a person infected with a contagious disease.
- **Contact tracing is currently being performed by interviewing COVID-19 positive patients.** While manual been critical to reducing disease transmission, it has **limitations due to relying on the memory of the case and delays in reaching contacts**
- To improve and augment manual contact tracing, **jurisdictions have introduced mobile apps that augment this process** by providing insight into a **person's recent contact history to reduce time to self-isolate**.
- Mobile contact tracing is a tool that combines with other tools, **to keep people safer, open up the economy sooner, and move closer to a greater sense of normalcy.**
- As the **recovery programs begin and Canadians travel across provinces and territories and the United States, we will need an interoperable solution** with ability to provide close contacts of the COVID+ individual to the relevant health authority for effective contact tracing.

- **Relying on an individual's ability to recall all interactions can be a challenge**; If an individual can recall destinations they have been (e.g., grocery store), many locations **do not have the capability to contact** those who may have been there
- **Reaching contacts can take days or weeks** if people don't answer their phone; **App-based** notifications can let **contacts be reached instantaneously**

Classification: Protected A

What is ABTraceTogether?

ABTraceTogether is a mobile app to enable community-driven contact tracing to support existing efforts to fight COVID-19.

How does ABTraceTogether Work?

- Using Bluetooth, the ABTraceTogether **app identifies other nearby phones with the app installed** for the purpose of detection of high risk individuals
- If an infected person has the app, they will be asked to **voluntarily upload encrypted data to Alberta Health Services** Contact Tracers. Contact Tracers will be able to use that information to reach the other app users who have had close contact with the infected person, and provide relevant guidance for their and others' safety
- The solution **was designed with privacy in mind.** No geo-location data is collected, encounter data is stored locally on your phone in an encrypted form, and mobile numbers are never revealed to other app users

Quickly contacting people that may have been infected enables AHS Contact Tracers to:

Provide guidance and care to those who are infected

Limit the spread of COVID-19 by enabling early self-isolation

Accelerate our ability to reopen the economy and move to a greater sense of normalcy

Classification: Protected A

ABTraceTogether Privacy Approach

We have worked with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta to ensure Albertan's data privacy is at the core of ABTraceTogether.

Liaison with Privacy Commissioner

Transparency

User control

Data minimization

Privacy Approach

- The use of ABTraceTogether is voluntary
- The app is consent based:
  - Opt-in / Opt-out
- There is limited collection of information:
  - No collection of GPS or location information
- There is limited disclosure of information:
  - No identifiable information exchanged between users
  - Information collected by Alberta Health Services only when a user tests positive and voluntarily uploads their contact log

Classification: Protected A

Current Status

- On May 1, 2020, Alberta launched the App to help support contact tracing and fight the spread of COVID-19
- ABTraceTogether Metrics as of July 30th:
  - Registered Users = 231,019
  - 66% iOS users and 34% Android users
- Alberta Health Services has performed multiple contact log uploads
- Privacy Impact Assessment accepted by Alberta Office of the Privacy Commissioner with recommendations on July 9, 2020
- Transition to federal app – COVID Alert
  - Transition must be viable and seamless

Classification: Protected A

Thank you!

Classification: Protected A

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada | Santé Canada et l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada

Canada

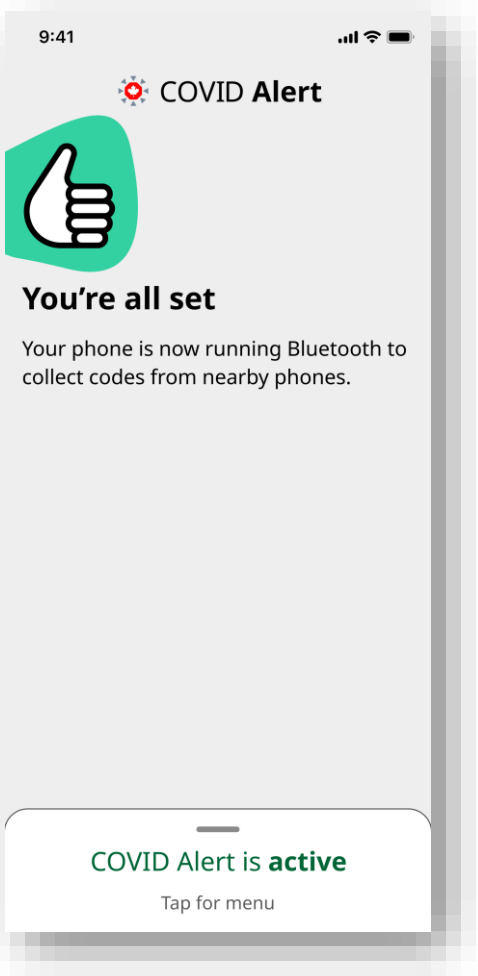
COVID Alert

Canada's Exposure Notification App

August 26, 2020

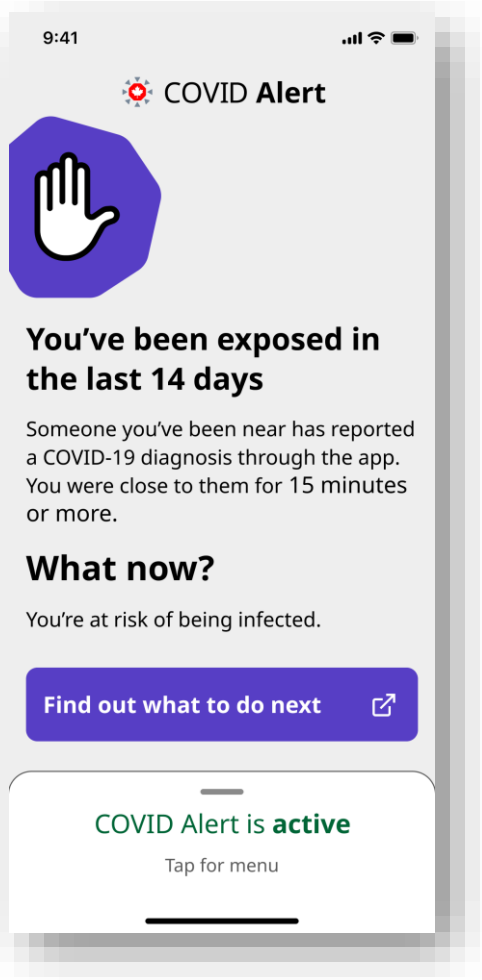
Overview

- On July 31, 2020, the Government of Canada launched a nation-wide mobile app called **COVID Alert**.
- COVID Alert is an **exposure notification app**, not a contact tracing app.
- It notifies users if they've been near someone who later tested positive for COVID-19.
- Key elements include:
  - Privacy and security protections,
  - National interoperability, and
  - User-centred design.
- The app does not replace manual contact tracing and other important tools.



How it Works

- The app uses **Bluetooth** to exchange **random codes** with nearby phones.
- When a user tests positive, they receive a **one-time key** from their health authority.
- The key allows users to upload their phones random codes to a national server.
- Each day users phones get a list of random codes from people that tested positive.
- If it the app finds a match, a **notification** is sent to the user via the app.
- **Next steps** are provided from their provincial/territorial public health authority.



Technology Architecture

1. COVID Alert App

2. Server

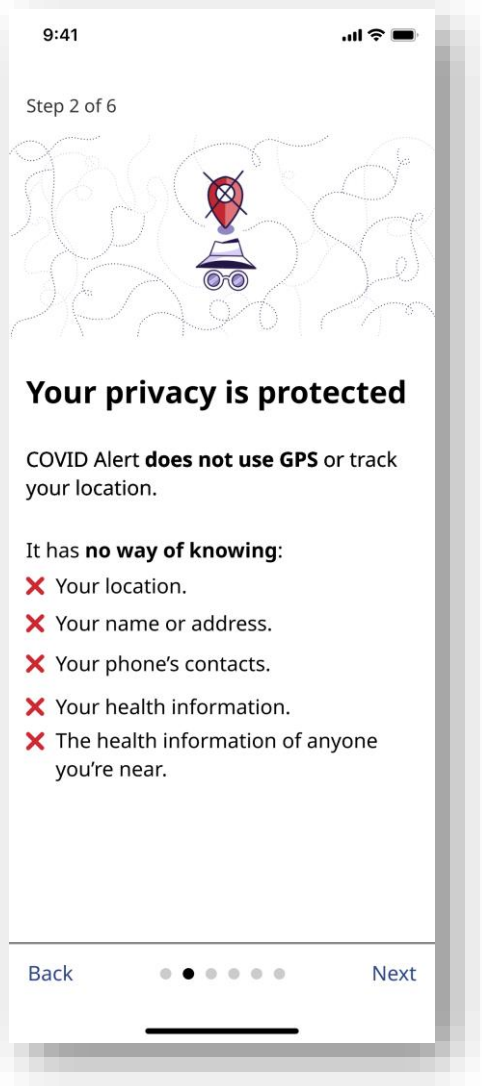
National server stores random codes via API token and generates one-time keys.

3. Web-based COVID Alert Portal

Portal that allows health care professionals in provinces and territories to access and issue one-time keys.

Privacy and Security

- The app incorporates **Apple and Google's Exposure Notification Framework** (ENF).
- ENF was selected for privacy protection and efficiency:
  - Decentralized architecture
  - Privacy-preserving cryptography
  - Bluetooth Low Energy
- The app collects no personally identifiable or location information.
- The Privacy Commissioners of Canada and Ontario were consulted during development and support its use by Canadians.



Rollout

- Ontario is the first province to provide the one-time keys to users who test positive for COVID-19.
- The app had been **downloaded over 2 million times**.
- At this early stage, the focus is on onboarding the provinces and territories.
- To support rollout, an **Advisory Council** was created to ensure the app meets the highest standards in:
  - Public health
  - Technology
  - Privacy

Partners

Service Canada

shopify

BlackBerry

LF PUBLIC HEALTH

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR CYBER SECURITY | CENTRE CANADIEN POUR LA CYBERSÉCURITÉ

Merci!
Thank You!

COVIDWISE

General Information

- Virginia's only COVID-19 exposure notification smartphone app
- Partnership VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SpringML Google
- Built with Google/Apple framework for Pubic Health Exposure Notification (EN)
- Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology and no location tracking
- First State in US to release the App using this framework
- Privacy is the top priority and app is completely opt-in with empowerment to users
- PIN Validation for positives to prevent false reporting

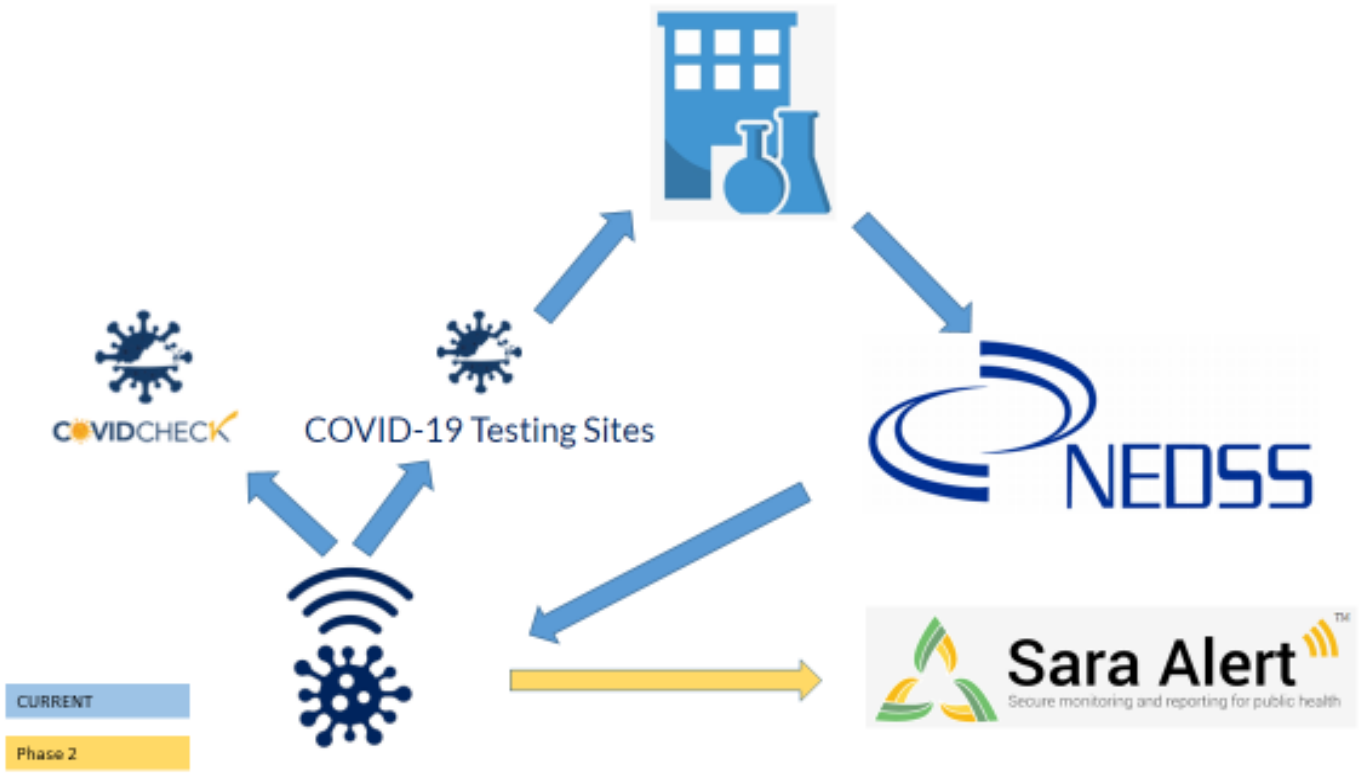
COVIDWISE

Other Considerations

- Plans to gain maximum uptake
- Following other countries launch stories
- Transparency
- Outreach through marketing
- FAQs
- An Oxford study from April 2020, suggests that if approximately 55% of the population uses this type of app that we could suppress the epidemic. The study also indicates that lower numbers of app users will also have a positive effect; estimating that one infection will be averted for every one to two app users.
- English and Spanish
- Build it through partnerships internally and externally

COVIDWISE

Contact Tracing Efforts



COVIDWISE

Partnership

- Include many public sector entities, including various departments of Virginia's executive branch and the state's Institutions of Higher Education (IHE).
- Engage companies and nonprofit organizations, including industry and trade associations.
- Outreach to hundreds of Faith-Based Organizations, Virginia-based celebrities, and social media influencers in the entertainment, sports, music and broadcasting industries.

COVIDWISE

Additional Information

- 431,666 downloads as of 08/23/2020 with above 4.5/5 rating
- COVIDWISE.ORG – Partnership details
- Consistent messaging to build trust
- Address Vulnerable population
- Plans to integrate with neighboring states
- Think of interoperability where possible

State, Provincial, and Territory Updates

Please keep your remarks brief.
Specific information on testing, case counts, and recovery rates can be found on the Center for Regional Disaster Resilience Website at www.regionalresilience.org/covid-19

Our next call will be

Wednesday, September 23
@ 11 am PDT