

Digital Contact Tracing Tools for COVID-19

Digital contact tracing tools **vary in purpose, features, and complexity**, but they can add value to traditional contact tracing efforts by:



Improving the efficiency and accuracy of data management and **automating tasks**;

Reducing the burden of data collection on public health staff by **allowing electronic self-reporting** by cases and contacts;

Using location data to **identify community contacts unknown to the case** to look at possible exposure.

Public health staff may have **different contact tracing challenges**, making a **one-size-fits-all solution unlikely**. Below are some items to consider when selecting the best tool for contact tracing.

Primary Purpose			
		Case Management <i>Tools to capture data on cases and contacts; some allow for automated notification and follow-up</i>	Proximity Tracking <i>Tools that use Bluetooth or GPS to track an individual's exposure to cases; used in addition to contact tracing case management tools</i>
Primary User	PHAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAs collect information on cases and contacts and follow up when necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHAs receive information that users choose to share to enhance contact tracing
	Cases and Contacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users report symptoms and contacts and can receive information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users elect to share data and are alerted if they have been close to a COVID-19 case
	Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to receive information from COVID-19 data systems through importation or automated means • Allow for automated notifications and follow-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity-sensing technologies that preserve personal privacy are still under development by many groups across the country • Requires community-wide adoption

What is CDC doing?

- ✓ Conducting a landscape analysis and evaluation of contact tracing tools;
- ✓ Generating preliminary tool recommendations for piloting tracing in areas with limited introduction of COVID-19;
- ✓ Coordinating with public health agencies, healthcare organizations, academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and private companies to maximize contact tracing effectiveness.

For more information, visit

[CDC's Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments](#) webpage.



cdc.gov/coronavirus