



# Factsheet

## The SwissCovid app helps keep the coronavirus in check

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Date:

25 november 2020

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**With the help of the SwissCovid app for mobile phones, we are hoping to contain the spread of the new coronavirus. The more people that use the SwissCovid app, the greater its contribution will be. Anyone who spends a certain amount of time in close proximity to at least one person who subsequently tests positive for the new coronavirus, will be notified via the app that they may have been infected, and then advised on what to do next. The person's privacy remains protected. Using the app is voluntary and free of charge. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.**

The coronavirus crisis is not over. Continued effort is needed to prevent the infection rate from rising. This is where the tracing and breaking of infection chains is a vital measure.

Under the conventional system of contact tracing, the cantonal authorities contact people by telephone who have been infected. They work together to ascertain who has recently been in close contact with the person infected with COVID-19. The authorities then contact these people. They tell them they may have been infected, provide advice on what to do and if necessary arrange for a medical examination and treatment.

The SwissCovid app complements this approach. It establishes whether your smartphone has been in close proximity to another smartphone with the app for a certain time. If this is the case, there is also a risk that the virus may have been transmitted by the users.

### How encounters are recorded

The SwissCovid app is installed on your smartphone. Provided the app is activated, the smartphone transmits random IDs via Bluetooth. These IDs are long random strings of characters that give no indication of the identity of the user or the device.

When smartphones with an active SwissCovid app or a compatible proximity tracing app get close to each other, the devices exchange their random IDs. If a user subsequently uses the app to report that they have been infected (see below), the other smartphones check the random IDs they have stored to see if there is a risk of infection. To do this, the app measures the distance and duration of any encounters with the infected person's phone, adding up the duration of repeated encounters with on any one day to ascertain whether the virus may have been transmitted.

All the random IDs recorded are deleted automatically from your phone after two weeks. All app users have to do is switch on Bluetooth and carry their phone with them.

## How notification works

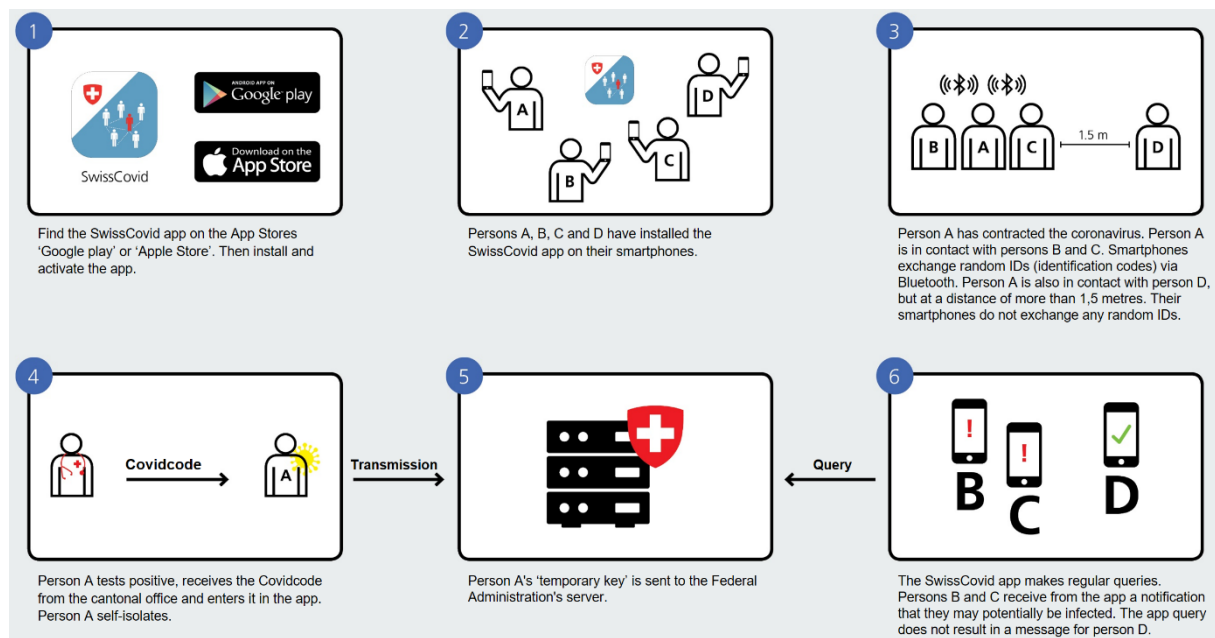
If a person with the SwissCovid app tests positive for the new coronavirus, they receive a Covidcode from the cantonal authorities. They need this code to activate the notification function in the app. This step prevents abuse of the system.

Once notification has been activated, app users may receive a message informing them if they might have been infected. This message is sent only to users who have had an encounter with the infected person in the period starting two days before that person first experienced symptoms of the disease, i.e. they have been within 1.5 metres of the infected person for 15 minutes or more on any one day.

The notification is sent automatically and is anonymous. The app then provides the user with a link to the SwissCovid guide for advice on what to do. If the person who receives the notification is still unsure what to do, they can call the SwissCovid infoline number specified in the app to find out the next steps. Their privacy is maintained throughout. If people who have been notified have already developed symptoms of the disease, they should have a test. To do this they can call their doctor or the service offered by their canton of residence. People with symptoms should stay at home and avoid contact with others (isolation) until they receive the result of their test.

By working together in this way, we can all help to break the chains of infection.

## This is how proximity tracing using the SwissCovid app works.



## **Voluntary and secure**

No one is under any obligation to use the SwissCovid app or to enter the Covidcode to report their infection. Privacy is guaranteed: the random IDs do not contain any information about the person, location or device used. The app is used exclusively to contain the spread of the new coronavirus.

No personal data or data on the movements of app users is recorded. The SwissCovid app cannot be used to conduct any medical tests and cannot order you to do anything. Only a doctor or cantonal medical officer can do that.

No data relating to the encounters described above are stored centrally. This data remains on your smartphone, and does not leave the device. There is nothing in the random IDs that are exchanged that connects them with any specific user. The Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner (FDPIC), the National Cybersecurity Centre and the National Ethics Committee have all agreed that this decentralised approach provides the best possible protection to your privacy. Once the coronavirus crisis is over, or if the app proves to be ineffective, the system will be shut down.