

THE CORONA-WARN APP: UNITING AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS

With the Corona-Warn app, everyone can chip in to help quickly interrupt chains of infection. It turns your smartphone into a warning system, informing us if we have come into contact with someone who has been infected with the virus. It protects us as well as those around us – and our privacy. The app does not know our name or our location.

WHY IS THE APP SO IMPORTANT?

We come into contact with other people in any public space – including people who are potentially infected with the coronavirus and who could possibly transmit the virus. Even if they are not showing symptoms.

Following a positive test for the virus, the Ministry of Health begins tracing contacts, and this is not done without gaps. After all, infected persons cannot possibly name everyone they came near at the supermarket, in the tube or out on a walk. The Corona-Warn app can help close these gaps, as it recognises when other people are in our vicinity. It alerts us when it is notified that one of these people has had a positive test. In short, it complements analogue tracing efforts, thereby helping to interrupt chains of infection. It helps keep the pandemic under control.

HOW DOES THE APP WORK?

The Corona-Warn app is intended to be our constant companion. Whenever users encounter each other, their smartphones exchange encrypted random codes via Bluetooth which provide information regarding their distance apart and the duration of the encounter. The app stores each of the random codes that our smartphones collect for 14 days. According to the Robert Koch Institute, the incubation period – i.e. the time from infection to the beginning of illness – ranges from one to a maximum of 14 days. For this reason, the data is automatically deleted after 14 days.

If someone voluntarily registers their infection in the app, their random codes are made available to all other users. In turn, their apps review whether the random code of an infected person is among their random codes collected in the last 14 days and whether critical contact took place. If the app makes a finding, it notifies the affected person and provides clear recommendations for what to do. The data of the notified persons can never be viewed.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE DATA?

The app is active when your smartphone is on and is intended to be our constant companion – but it will never get to know us. It never learns our name, our telephone number nor our location. This means that it cannot tell anyone else who or where we are. Data protection remains intact throughout your entire usage in every case.

- **No registration:** It doesn't need an email address or a name.
 - **No conclusions about personal data:** When you come into contact with another person, the smartphones only exchange random codes, which measure the distance and duration of the encounter. They do not allow conclusions to be made about specific individuals, and your location is not traced.
 - **Decentralised storage:** The data is only stored on your smartphone and is deleted after 14 days.
 - **No third-party access:** The data of individuals who register a documented infection and those who are notified cannot be traced – not by the federal government, not by the Robert Koch Institute, not by other users and not by the operators of the app stores.
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