



Factsheet

The SwissCovid app helps keep the coronavirus in check

Date:

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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 a person who subsequently tests positive for the new coronavirus, will be notified via the app that they may have been infected, and are advised on what to do next. The person's privacy remains protected at all times. 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 far from over, even if the Federal Council is gradually relaxing the measures it introduced. Continued effort is needed to prevent the infection rate from rising again. 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 persons 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 now complements this approach. It establishes whether your smartphone has been in close proximity to another smartphone with the app for a certain time. If you or the other user are infected with the virus, there is a risk that the virus may have been transmitted.

How encounters are recorded

The SwissCovid app is installed on your smartphone. Provided the app is activated, the smartphone transmits a random ID 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 compatible proximity tracing app are 1.5 metres or less from 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 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 the same phone on any one day to ascertain whether the virus may have been transmitted.

Each of the random IDs recorded is deleted automatically from your phone after two weeks. App users simply have to switch on Bluetooth and carry the phone with them.

How notification works

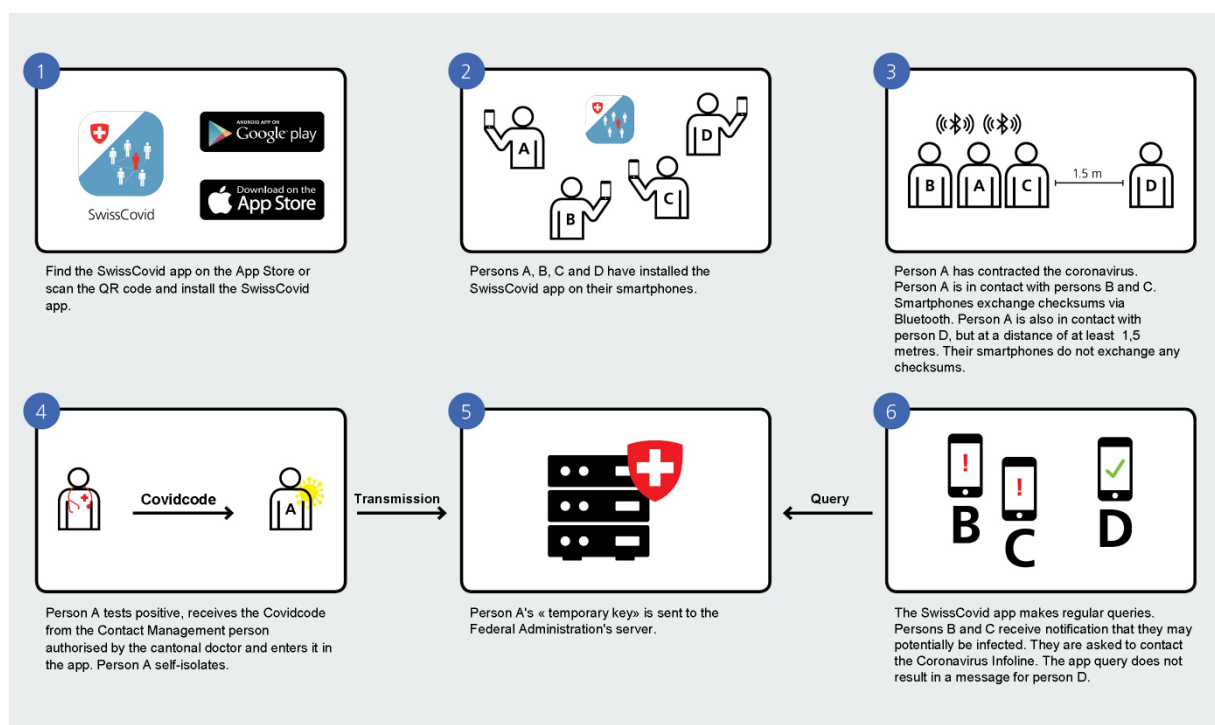
If a person with the SwissCovid app tests positive for the new coronavirus, they receive a Covidcode from the cantonal authorities. They need this code to activate the notification function in the app. This step prevents abuse of the system.

Once notification has been activated, certain app users may receive a message to say they may 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 two metres of the infected person for 15 minutes or more on any one day.

The notification is sent automatically and is anonymous. Anyone who receives a notification can then call the infoline number in the app and find out what to do next. Their privacy is maintained at all times. If a person who has been notified has already developed symptoms of the disease, they should stay at home, avoid contact with other people, and do the coronavirus check or call their doctor.

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 at all times: the random IDs do not contain any information that can be used to identify a person, location or device. 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 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 (FDPIIC), 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.

The SwissCovid app system has been developed on behalf of and in cooperation with the FOPH by the Federal Office for Information Technology and Telecommunications FOITT, the Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETH) and Lausanne (EPFL) and the Swiss company Ubique.