



COVID Alert Exposure Window

Canada's Exposure Notification App

Special Advisory Committee - October 8, 2020



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Période d'exposition de l'Alerte COVID

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COVID Alert

Special Advisory Committee
December 2020



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Promotion of the COVID Alert app / Promotion de l'application Alerte COVID

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Sent: December 22, 2020 12:14:42 PM PST

Attachments: COVID Alert - FR - Dec 10_FR.pdf, SAC - COVID Alert - EN - Dec 10.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good afternoon SAC members,

We are sharing the email below on behalf of Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, PHAC. This is in follow up to the COVID Alert app discussion that took place at SAC on December 10th.

Kind regards,
SAC Secretariat

(Le français suit)

Dear SAC members,

We did not have a chance to go through the COVID Alert app update at the Special Advisory Committee meeting on December 10, but hope you have had a chance to review the deck that was shared and is attached for reference. You will notice in the material that the app has already been updated based on public health guidance and provincial needs where possible and that there are more changes under consideration to better meet our collective needs.

In recent months, healthcare workers, including public health staff, have asked for an easier way to turn the app off while they are wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment at work. The COVID Alert has been updated with a new feature that will allow users to easily turn the app on and off.

Overall, the app can complement manual contact tracing by identifying close contacts that would not be found through standard tracing methods. The app may also be beneficial in disrupting smaller chains of transmission via exposure notifications in circumstances where physical distancing may not be possible (i.e., in a workplace, in certain community settings, at gatherings with friends and/or extended families). With the upcoming vaccine rollout and Canadians being more mobile, the use of the app will still be as relevant as we encourage everyone to continue using a suite of tools against COVID-19.

While extensive efforts are being made at all levels to improve and raise awareness of the app, it is local public health officials, in their daily contact with Canadians, that can have a stronger impact on uptake, trust and usage of the app. That is why having you and your respective public health officials continue to help promote the app and its benefits at all touchpoints with Canadians is so important.

To this end, we are committed to providing you and your officials with any additional support that may be required. Please have your staff reach out to the COVID Alert team (Marika Nadeau, Director General, by email at marika.nadeau@canada.ca or by phone at 613-793-2263) to provide feedback on experiences with the app and to further discuss ways we can provide support.

Thank you for your continued support,

Dr. Theresa Tam

Chers membres du CSC,

Nous n'avons pas eu l'occasion de passer en revue la mise à jour de l'application Alerte COVID dans le cadre de la réunion du Comité consultatif spécial, le 10 décembre, mais nous espérons que vous avez eu la chance de passer en revue la présentation qui a été partagée et que vous trouverez en pièce jointe. Vous remarquerez dans le matériel

que l'application a déjà été mise à jour en fonction des conseils en matière de santé publique et des besoins provinciaux. D'autres changements sont également à l'étude pour mieux répondre à nos besoins collectifs.

Dans les derniers mois, les travailleurs de la santé et officiels de santé publique ont demandé une façon plus facile d'éteindre l'application lorsqu'ils portent l'équipement de protection personnelle approprié au travail. Alerte COVID a depuis été mise à jour avec une nouvelle fonction qui permet aux utilisateurs d'éteindre et d'activer aisément l'application.

De façon générale, l'application peut servir de complément au suivi manuel des contacts en identifiant les contacts étroits qui ne sont pas détectés par les méthodes de suivi standard. L'application peut également servir à perturber des chaînes de transmission plus petites au moyen de notifications d'exposition dans des circonstances où il n'est pas possible de pratiquer la distanciation physique (c.-à-d. dans un milieu de travail, dans certains milieux communautaires, lors de réunions avec des amis ou des familles élargies). Avec le déploiement du vaccin à venir et la mobilité accrue des Canadiens, l'utilisation de l'application sera toujours aussi pertinente alors que nous encourageons la population à continuer d'utiliser une série d'outils contre la COVID-19

Bien que des efforts considérables soient déployés à tous les niveaux pour améliorer sensibiliser le public à l'application, ce sont les services de santé publique locaux, dans leurs contacts quotidiens avec les Canadiens, qui peuvent avoir une incidence plus forte sur l'adoption, la confiance et l'utilisation de l'application. C'est pourquoi il est si important que vous et vos collègues dans le domaine de la santé publique continuiez de nous aider à promouvoir l'application et ses avantages à tous les points de contact avec les Canadiens.

À cette fin, nous nous engageons à fournir, à vous et à vos collègues de santé publique, tout soutien supplémentaire qui pourrait être nécessaire. S'il vous plaît, demandez à votre personnel de communiquer avec l'équipe d'Alerte COVID (Marika Nadeau, directrice générale, par courriel à marika.nadeau@canada.ca ou par téléphone au 613793-2263) afin de fournir des commentaires en lien à l'expérience avec l'application et de discuter des façons dont nous pouvons mieux vous soutenir.

Nous vous remercions de votre soutien continu.

Dr. Theresa Tam



Alerte COVID

Comité consultatif special
décembre 2020



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Health
Canada

Santé
Canada

Deputy Minister Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0K9

Mr. Stephen Brown
Deputy Minister of Health
Province of British Columbia
stephen.brown@gov.bc.ca

NOV 23 2020

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your correspondence of October 28, 2020, with respect to British Columbia's decision concerning the deployment of the COVID Alert exposure notification app.

The COVID Alert app is one of many tools to help Canadians in the fight against the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19). No matter where you are in Canada, the app will notify users who have downloaded it of potential exposure to COVID-19.

Health Canada acknowledges your request for additional functionalities. While the Department is open to continuing discussions on these points, given the privacy implications of such changes, the Department is unable to commit to the requirements outlined in your letter at this time.

Health Canada will continue to assess the COVID Alert app and update it as it rolls out across the country based on public health guidance, user-based research and testing, as well as updates to the underlying framework by Apple and Google. For example, the app's notification exposure window was recently updated to reflect feedback and evolving public health advice provided through the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Public Health Working Group and the Special Advisory Committee, in which British Columbia public health officials participate.

The Department is also working with and seeking advice from its expert COVID-19 Exposure Notification App Advisory Council to ensure the app meets the highest standards in public health outcomes, privacy and technology.

I would reiterate our commitment to continuing to collaborate with British Columbia to onboard the COVID Alert app should the province's position change.

Again, thank you for writing, and please accept my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Lucas, Ph.D.

Canada



COVID Alert

Special Advisory Committee
December 2020



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From: Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX

Sent: December 10, 2020 9:44 AM

To: Aitken, Jeff HLTH:EX; Shrimpton, Paul HLTH:EX; McDonnell, Paul HLTH:EX; Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX; XT:Malovec, Shannon HLTH:IN

Cc: Smith, Pam K HLTH:EX

Subject: FW: Dec 10 - SAC on COVID-19 Teleconference - Meeting Material - COVID Alert App

Attachments: 5. SAC - COVID Alert - EN - Dec 10.pdf; 5b. COVID Alert Performance Metrics SAC.pdf

FYI – update on the Federal App – however, I see the gaps still there that we identified. s.13; s.16
s.13; s.16

Corrie

From: Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX <Ian.Rongve@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: December 10, 2020 9:30 AM

To: Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX <Corrie.Barclay@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Dec 10 - SAC on COVID-19 Teleconference - Meeting Material - COVID Alert App

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)" <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>

Date: December 10, 2020 at 9:24:10 AM PST

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Subject: RE: Dec 10 - SAC on COVID-19 Teleconference - Meeting Material - COVID Alert App

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Dear SAC participants,

Further to our previous email, please find attached the documents to support agenda item #5

- Agenda Items #5 Deck: COVID Alert App (EN), FR to follow on CNPHI.
- 5b: COVID Alert Performance Metrics SAC

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Thank you,

SAC Secretariat

From: Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC) <stephanie.davies@canada.ca> **On Behalf Of** CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)

Sent: 2020-12-10 10:39 AM

Subject: Dec 10 - SAC on COVID-19 Teleconference - Meeting Material

Good day SAC participants,

Please find attached the following documents to support today's SAC discussion:

- SAC Agenda
- Agenda Item #2: COVID-19 Behaviour Change and Vaccine Uptake
- Agenda Item #3 & 3a Deck: COVID-19 – Access to Therapeutic Products in Canada Regulatory Update (EN & FR)
- Agenda Items #5: COVID Alert App (material to follow)

All documents have been added to the Public Health Network Council portal on CNPHI.^{s.16}

Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions.

Thank you,

SAC Secretariat

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
DECISION BRIEFING NOTE
DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

Cliff #xxxxxxxxxx

PREPARED FOR: Dr Reka Gustafson, BCCDC, Deputy Provincial Health Officer,
Corrie Barclay, ADM, HSIMIT and Shannon Malovec, Chief
Digital Information Officer, PHSA
- FOR DECISION

TITLE: COVID-19 – Exposure Risk Notification app

PURPOSE: Seeking executive direction for proceeding with an Exposure Risk
Notification app.

BACKGROUND:

In July 2020 Health Canada released COVID Alert, an Exposure Notification app, in Ontario. It has since been adopted by other provinces and has a roadmap for continual improvement. COVID Alert utilizes the Google/Apple Bluetooth-based Exposure Notifications System (ENS). COVID Alert provides anonymous and autonomous proximity-based notification of a potential exposure. In late August 2020, the BC team started working through the COVID Alert onboarding process.

During September, the merits of the COVID Alert app were assessed within BC. After careful consideration public health decided in early October not to proceed with the onboarding. The key BC gaps with COVID Alert are:

s.13; s.16

Note that the Federal team plans to include the capture of QR codes within COVID Alert to allow for notifications based on location.

Public health indicated that BC needs a digital solution that will support the traditional contact tracing process to identify those who may have been exposed at high transmission risk within a specified time window (such as a night club, a social event, a lecture theatre). s.13; s.16

s.13; s.16

DISCUSSION:

The Federal expectation is that the first doses for the Pfizer vaccine will be given in mid December and 3m Canadians will be vaccinated by March. If distribution and delivery go according to plan and the vaccines are as effective as trials indicate it is reasonable to assume that the pandemic will be under control by fall 2021.

It is likely that case numbers will keep rising in the early part of the year since younger, mobile, and social populations will not have been vaccinated yet. Younger people may relax on the social distancing and mask wearing under the premature conclusion that the risk of transmission has been much reduced due to the advent of the vaccine.

There is the potential that implementing a location-based exposure notification app in the springtime may facilitate relaxation of public health restrictions.

In that context BC needs to decide between moving forward with Exposure Risk Notification or taking no action.

OPTIONS:

Option One:

s.13

s.13

s.13

Option Two: Status Quo, take no action, rely on existing contact tracing efforts to manage the spread of COVID-19 and focus efforts on delivery of the vaccine.

s.13

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Detailed costing will be assessed if work is approved and will be dependent on the solution. Rough order of magnitude costs:

- Option One: ~\$80,000 to implement over a 6-week period (development costs include: Privacy, Security, communications, PM and solution build and test). Plus 6 months sustainment, ~\$30,000
- Option Two: No immediate costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Option One: s.13
s.13

Approved/Not Approved
Dr. Reka Gustafson,
PHSA & Deputy Provincial Health

Date Signed

Approved/Not Approved
Corrie Barclay,
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Sector IMIT

Date Signed

Approved/Not Approved
Shannon Malovec,
Chief Digital Information Officer, PHSA

Date Signed

Program ADM/Division:	Corrie Barclay, ADM, Health Sector IM/IT
Telephone:	778 974-2796
Program Contact (for content):	Dr. Douglas Kingsford
Drafter:	Paul McDonnell
Date:	December 14, 2020

COVID Alert Performance Metrics

Issue

Requests made to track additional metrics that are not currently collected through the COVID Alert app to help assess its effectiveness. Some of these metrics may affect the privacy first principle of the app.

Overview

When COVID Alert was launched, the app was designed to provide limited data to the government, like the randomly generated one-time keys (OTK) necessary for the notification process. While this approach has generated a positive response among privacy experts, and encouraged adoption of the app, privacy continues to be an issue raised by Canadians as a concern with respect to downloading the app.

However, there are downsides to the privacy first approach. Notably, it has limited the data available to assess the performance of the app. This makes it difficult to assess and demonstrate the effect the app is having on the pandemic. .

Rationale for Additional Data Collection

Additional data collection would allow Health Canada to better monitor the effect the app is having on the pandemic. This would provide a number of benefits:

- **Measuring the Success of the App:** it would enable HC to measure the success of the app at meeting its stated goal of reducing the spread of COVID-19. Current data is sufficient to estimate the *theoretical* effect the app could be having on the pandemic but is not sufficient to measure the *actual* effect the app on the pandemic, as it is not possible to know how many cases of COVID-19 or deaths were avoided due to the app.
- **Encouraging app uptake:** Additional data on app downloads would better enable HC to determine where uptake of the app is underperforming, and focus efforts to increase awareness and download of the app. Empirical evidence of the public health benefits of the app will also enable the department to quantify the effect the app is having on the pandemic.
- **Encouraging PT adoption:** Some provinces and territories have expressed concerns that the app in its current state is not effective at curbing the pandemic, or that it may have a high “false positive” rate. Being able to quantify the effect the app is having on the pandemic would counter these concerns. BC and Yukon have both indicated that empirical evidence of the effect of the app on the pandemic would cause them to reconsider their decisions not to adopt COVID Alert.

What metrics are currently collected?

Health Canada publicly reports on the data it has on the number of downloads as well as the number of one-time keys being claimed, as provided by the Google Play Store, Apple App Store, and Canada’s server.

With the launch of the new exposure window feature, which is based on the user entering a symptom onset date or test date, Health Canada now has data on the average number of days between the start of the most infectious period, and the OTK being claimed (and therefore notices being sent to contacts).

What additional metrics could be collected?

Additional metrics have been identified for possible collection, which could enable HC to better measure the effect the app is having on limiting the spread of the pandemic and address any areas where the app may be underperforming. These include:

- **Number of active users and downloads per province or territory:** The app could report the province or territory (PT) the user selects in the app during the onboarding process. The app user would still have the option not to select a PT. This would provide an estimated number of downloads per PT, and the estimated number of active users per PT, which would indicate the level of app adoption in particular jurisdictions and help gain a better understanding of the distribution of app users across the country.
- **Number of exposure notifications sent:** The app could report to the national server when it triggers a notification of a possible exposure from the user. This would provide an aggregate count of the number of notifications sent. This data could also be cross-referenced with the PT selected to estimate the number of notifications received in each PT. This would also allow for an estimate of the average number of notifications sent per OTK being claimed, which will not only help estimate the effect the app is having on the pandemic, but could be used by public health agencies to estimate the average number of contacts per positive case.
- **Number of app users who test positive after a notification:** The app could report if a user who claims a one-time key previously received an exposure notification. This would provide data on number of users who tested positive after receiving an exposure notification through the app. This would provide an estimate of the success of the app at successfully notifying cases of COVID-19 and estimate the effect the app is having on the pandemic in terms of limiting the spread of the virus.

What could be the data sources for these new metrics & associated risks?

There are a number of ways to collect the additional data, each with various trade-offs between the quality and accuracy of the data and the privacy considerations.

- ***Option 1: Collect Additional Data in the App***

It is possible to collect additional data in the app, but would require modifications to the app to report additional data to Canada's servers. This would result in the highest quality data, and allow Health Canada to most accurately assess the effect the app is having on the pandemic.

Risks: This option would create the most significant privacy concerns out of all the available options and carries the highest potential risk of harming app uptake. It is expected that the Privacy Commissioner would not be supportive of this option.

Any attempt to collect additional data from the app will require extensive consultations with and buy-in from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, the Advisory Council, provinces and territories, Apple, and Google. Privacy experts have positively reviewed COVID Alert, however concerns have been raised about surveillance creep, where more privacy invasive features are introduced once the app has been downloaded by a significant number of users. Collecting additional data through the app would validate these concerns. The primary concern and resistance from Canadians to download the app at launch, was around collecting their personal data. While these concerns have slowly been mitigated through effective messaging, there is a high risk of harming public trust and reducing adoption of the app from individuals who list privacy as their primary concern with respect to the app.

- ***Option 2: Optional Data Collection in the App***

Similar to Option 1, the app would be modified to report additional data to Canada's servers.

However, the data collection features would be optional, and app users would be given the ability to enable or disable the data collection. This would grant users control over additional data collected by the app, and is likely to generate less privacy concerns than option 1.

Risks: In addition to the risks identified in option 1, it is likely that a percentage of app users would opt-out of providing additional data, which will result in incomplete or less accurate information. Total data on the number of downloads by province and notifications would need to be estimated based on the sample data provided.

BC Program Bullets

Agenda Item

BC adoption of COVID Alert app

Recommended BC Position/Key Messages

- PHO rejected the COVID Alert app in October.
- Public health have currently determined that the current exposure notification app would not be helpful given current high case numbers.
- BC has determined that a location-based exposure notification solution would meet the needs of BC better than the proximity-based approach of the COVID Alert app. This would allow selective targeting of high-risk transmission locations, would not be dependent on broad population uptake, and would avoid sending contacts indiscriminate notifications of questionable utility that risk wasting public health resources subsequently managing those individuals.

s.13; s.16

BC Background

Current situation:

s.13; s.16

- Health Canada have recently described plans to add QR codes to the COVID Alert. They have described these plans as currently being at an early stage.

s.13; s.16

Background:

- In July 2020 Health Canada released the COVID Alert exposure notification app in Ontario.

s.13; s.16

BC Program Bullets

s.13; s.16

Arguments against COVID Alert app:

s.13; s.16

Prepared by: Dr Douglas Kingsford, 12/1/21

Approved by: Corrie Barclay, 13/1/21

From: Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>
Sent: February 7, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; McDonnell, Paul HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: BC Exposure Risk Notification app

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Everyone,

I spoke with Bonnie and Douglas about this meeting last week. At this stage of our response, we are unlikely to be adopting new exposure notification apps. I would like to suggest we cancel this meeting unless you think there is a decision to be made.

Many thanks,

Reka

Réka Gustafson

Vice President, Public Health and Wellness, PHSA & Deputy Provincial Health Officer
Provincial Health Services Authority

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX [<mailto:Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie [EXT]; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Paul.McDonnell@gov.bc.ca [EXT]
Subject: BC Exposure Risk Notification app
When: Monday, February 08, 2021 10:00 AM-10:30 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams meeting

EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and **do not** open attachments or click on links.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

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[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

<< Message: RE: BC Exposure Risk Notification app (Reschedule) >>

From: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX

Sent: January 27, 2021 10:06 AM

To: Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX; Strong, Sonya A HLTH:EX; Aitken, Jeff HLTH:EX; McDonnell, Paul HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: Covid Alert

Hi Corrie,

The addition of QR codes is certainly a step in the right direction. All the other PHO concerns remain, though. The key ones:

s.13; s.16

There is an open question about the value of QR codes vs GPS, given the need to actively scan a code everywhere you go. There was a case in New Zealand last week where a returning traveller was scanning everywhere then went positive, but few people had been doing that in the various locations the person visited. Another issue with relying on QR codes is that people won't have QR codes in their homes, but social gatherings are an important transmission vector. A combined GPS approach, being passive, would help with these issues but is not possible in the Federal app.

When we last spoke about this with PH, a comment was made that this was unlikely to be helpful at the current level of case numbers.

I like the idea of piloting something - might we be able to pilot ours and theirs in two regions, comparing results?

We have an upcoming call with Bonnie and Reka to discuss options around this, so will be able to get their thoughts on the Federal app development as part of that conversation.

Regards,
Douglas

Dr Douglas Kingsford

Provincial CMIO, Ministry of Health

From: Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX <Corrie.Barcly@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 27, 2021 6:52 AM

To: Strong, Sonya A HLTH:EX <Sonya.A.Strong@gov.bc.ca>; Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>; Aitken, Jeff HLTH:EX <Jeff.Aitken@gov.bc.ca>; McDonnell, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.McDonnell@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Fwd: Covid Alert

Good morning

Some progress you may be aware of in the federal app. Are we interested in working with them on a pilot for specific locations to see if it helps? What gaps do they still have? If we insert public health through our own codes for positive?

Corrie

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Fortin3, Marc (HC/SC)" <marc.fortin3@canada.ca>
Date: January 27, 2021 at 6:43:23 AM PST
To: "Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX" <Corrie.Barclay@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Covid Alert

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Corrie, hope you are well,

Following my last correspondence, I am sharing with a presentation that was done last Friday at our FPT working group on QR-Codes and benefit this feature can bring on contact tracing. At our end public Health colleagues are supportive to explore such approach and I know BC was also interested to look at such activities, from there, we would be interested to look at opportunities for BC to partnering and consider a pilot project. Looking forward to have your views.

Rgds,

Marc

Marc Fortin

Assistant Deputy Minister / Sous-Ministre adjoint/
Health Canada / Santé Canada
Groupe de travail – Alerte-Covid-Alert Task Force
Marc.fortin3@canada.ca
613-960-9712 (office-bureau)
613-295-9627 (cell)

From: Fortin3, Marc (HC/SC)
Sent: 2021-01-14 5:02 PM
To: 'Barclay, Corrie A HLTH:EX' <Corrie.Barclay@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Covid Alert

Hi Corrie, hope you are well and happy new year !

Just want to bring at your attention. As we mentioned in the last few months , we were interested to explore some opportunities on technology related to QR codes,. I understand my team is reaching to your this week , including Douglas in particular. I know BC was very interested to conduct more analysis in that domain, at our end this is a one of the big ticket that we have an interest to proceed with as a new feature for the App. I am happy to connect with you to briefly discuss, just let me know.

Marc

Marc Fortin

Assistant Deputy Minister / Sous-Ministre adjoint/

Health Canada / Santé Canada

Groupe de travail – Alerte-Covid-Alert Task Force

Marc.fortin3@canada.ca

613-960-9712 (office-bureau)

613-295-9627 (cell)

From: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX

Sent: February 10, 2021 9:32 AM

To: Vandermolén, Chad HLTH:EX; Shrimpton, Paul HLTH:EX

Cc: Samra, Kevin HLTH:EX; Pagan, Daniel J HLTH:EX

Subject: RE: FOR ACTION/CONFIRMATION (time sensitive): Are Updates to BC Program Bullets re COVID Alert App Required?

Hi Chad,

From my perspective the bullets in the attached document remain current and do not require updating. Note that we provided them from HSI MT, not HSI AR.

s.16

We will be interested to see what performance data the Feds they come up with on COVID Alert, as the current lack of data on effectiveness and impact was a factor in BC's decision not to adopt.

Paul, anything else to add?

Regards,
Douglas

Dr Douglas Kingsford

Provincial CMIO, Ministry of Health

From: Vandermolén, Chad HLTH:EX <Chad.Vandermolén@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: February 10, 2021 9:13 AM

To: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>; Shrimpton, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Shrimpton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Samra, Kevin HLTH:EX <Kevin.Samra@gov.bc.ca>; Pagan, Daniel J HLTH:EX <Daniel.Pagan@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: FOR ACTION/CONFIRMATION (time sensitive): Are Updates to BC Program Bullets re COVID Alert App Required?

Importance: High

Two more developments:

Daniel noted the following timely article: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/covid-alert-app-data-collection-1.5907307>

Also, we've just received the attached PDF/deck addressed to the COVID Special Advisory Committee (i.e. FPT public health leads).

IGR looks forward to your advice re whether updates to the BC Program Bullets are required.

Thanks,

Chad

From: Vandermolen, Chad HLTH:EX

Sent: February 9, 2021 4:34 PM

To: Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>; Shrimpton, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Shrimpton@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Samra, Kevin HLTH:EX <Kevin.Samra@gov.bc.ca>; Pagan, Daniel J HLTH:EX <Daniel.Pagan@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FOR ACTION/CONFIRMATION (time sensitive): Are Updates to BC Program Bullets re COVID Alert App Required?

Good afternoon gentlemen,

There is a FPT Health DMs' meeting this Friday (11 a.m. to noon Pacific). The draft Agenda includes a COVID Alert Update informational/status update item, as follows:

4. COVID-19 Alert App Update – <i>for information</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on the COVID Alert App including new features and work under way to implement QR codes.	<i>10 min.</i>
---	----------------

On Jan. 15 our DM and Health Canada DM Stephen Brown had a bilateral call and the COVID Alert App was on that Agenda. In support of that bilateral meeting, HSIAR kindly provided the attached BC Program Bullets. Appreciating the Feb. 12 Agenda frames the item as an information update, it will still be important for our call lead to have current and accurate info and BC context. With that in mind, **can you confirm whether the attached remains accurate and complete or whether updates are required?** If the latter, I can initiate an eApp to have HSIAR update it; sign-off by both Corrie and Ian Rongve would be required. I look forward to confirmation at your earliest convenience.

At today's FPT Virtual Care Committee/Digital Table, there was some relevant discussion which may provide some useful context. Daniel Pagan from my team observed the call. Daniel's summary comment: Health Canada extended its contract with Thrive (the mobile company that designed the COVID-19 app and the self-assessment app) for 3 more months, into the spring. They're looking at the path forward for these apps, and whether to start winding down these apps. His notes on the topic for today's call are as follows:

s.16

s.16

Sincere thanks,
Chad