

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Design Team Meeting

May 15, 2020

Meeting Goals and Objectives

- Gain consensus on key contact tracing processes, terminology and definitions
- Perform a preliminary review of an environmental scan on digital tools in support of contact tracing
- Determine the scope and immediate next steps to prepare for convening of a broader group of public health experts

Participants

Name (Alpha Order)	Title	Affiliation
Jason Bonander	Deputy Chief Information Officer	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Jim Collins	Director, Communicable Disease Division	Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
James Daniel	Director, Public Health Innovation	US Department of Health and Human Services
Michelle Dethloff	Program Director, Epidemiology and Lab Capacity	North Dakota Department of Health Division of Disease Control
Jeff Engel	Senior Advisor, COVID-19 Response	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Adi Gundlapalli	Chief Public Health Informatics Officer – Center for Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Janet Hamilton	Executive Director	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Michael Judd	Lead, Innovative Technologies Team - Workforce Development and Innovation Taskforce	Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
Bryant Karras	Chief Informatics Officer	Washington State Department of Health
Becky Lampkins	Manager, Surveillance and Informatics Program	Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
Megan Light	Deputy Team Lead, Innovative Technologies Team - Workforce Development and Innovation Taskforce	Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
Judy Monroe	President, CEO	CDC Foundation
Patrick O'Carroll	Head, Health Systems Strengthening Sector	Task Force for Global Health
Anita Patel	Lead Advisor – Influenza Coordination Unit, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Dave Ross	President, CEO	Task Force for Global Health
Sharon Sartin	Chief Technology Officer, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation	US Department of Health and Human Services
Mark Stenger	Epidemiologist, Innovative Technologies Team - Workforce Development and Innovation Taskforce	Centers of Disease Control and Prevention
Vivian Singletary	Executive Director – Public Health Informatics Institute	Task Force for Global Health
Jimica Tchamako	Requirements Lab Director – Public Health Informatics Institute	Task Force for Global Health
Kathryn Turner	Chief, Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention Control	Idaho Division of Public Health

Topics
1. Recap Previous Meeting
2. Proposed Approach for Convenings
3. Review Typology for Contact Tracing
4. Discussion Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Can we agree on contact tracing typology? b) Are there existing proven systems/tools that are well-suited to address parts of that typology? c) What parts of contact tracing can be managed locally and what parts require a national/regional solution? d) What support is needed around making decisions for digital tools for contact tracing? e) Can we align on using the Apple/Google API as a fundamental technology framework for exposure notification? f) How does privacy (and geolocation) fit into all of this?

Meeting Minutes

The design team committee discussed the barriers and facilitators of contact tracing among public health entities and technology partners. The team developed three strategies that will define the focus during this four-week engagement. The broader discussion fell under the following categories:

AIM Statement:

The team agreed that the aim statement below accurately represented their objectives.

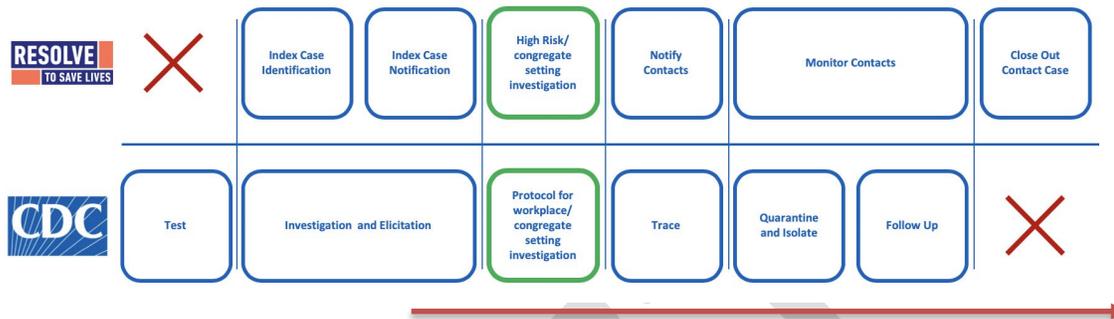
- To develop and provide guidance to state/local public health officials to assist their understanding of the marketplace of digital tools to support contact tracing.
- To develop and provide guidance to industry partners (technology companies) to ensure technology meets the standards required by state/local public health officials (requirements) for contact tracing.

The team also discussed the importance of having a systematic process for producing documents that would be shared with the general public. Highlights include (1) watermarking pages, (2) highlighting sensitive topics, and (3) asking specific members to review content related to their specialties so no information can be misconstrued.

Gain consensus on key contact tracing process, terminology and definitions.

- The Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII) conducted an environmental scan on contract tracing and a cross walk comparison between the Resolve to Save Lives contact protocol and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plan. The documents are very closely related but differ in terminology used.

Contact Tracing Definition Crosswalk



Priority # 1: The team agreed to focus on contact tracing and any potential intersections or exchange of data points (inputs and outputs) that happen between contact tracing and case investigation (e.g., when case investigation triggers contact tracing, or when contract tracing identifies a new case).

Priority #2: This effort should produce materials on how the public health profession defines contact tracing and where specific technologies can support various processes. It will help public health agencies discern what technology companies can contribute in an impactful way.

- The team discussed various definitions of contact tracing and how different technologies can address multiple aspects of case investigation and contact tracing.
 - Contact identification can be done through a case interview or some form of digital tool.
 - The team also identified that there are two different avenues of contract tracing:
 - Identifying a contact who may become a case
 - Identifying and monitoring an individual over time until they are a confirmed case

Pain points

Public Health Agencies

- What is the process for letting people know about their exposure?
 - Anonymous contacts – how do we contact parties who have a lack of information about one another? Apple/Google technology may help identify this issue.
 - How do we let individuals know that they were exposed and what is this process going to look like?
 - How do we keep the confidentiality of confirmed cases while informing others of potential exposure?
- Workflow management support specifically for the contact tracing staff
- User access: control and restrict user access appropriately given the high volume of temporary workers and not accessing other classified systems within the health department
- Solutions were contract tracers don't have to use their personal cell phones; phone banking or some other type of solution
- Technology space solutions have low buy-in with the older and rural populations

Technology Vendors

- Companies that don't have a public health background are not understanding public health workflows and processes. Therefore, they are offering solutions that do not meet the needs of public health agencies
 - Providing guidance to technology vendors about public health workflows to reduce complexity and burden
- Plurality of solutions: there is a lost opportunity for public health to shape the core infrastructure to ensure usefulness
- The need for integration/interoperability: for third party applications or the state surveillance systems to bring in cases

The innovative technologies team at the CDC has conducted an environmental scan and reviews of tools that states are using and have identified specific pain points

Recommendations/Suggestions for a focal point (in the next four weeks):

1. Apple/Google Solution (needs to have a U.S. position)

- We need to have a position on how the U.S. public health system will absorb these technologies: what is the public health approach, thoughts, guidance on this?
- Need to support whatever guidance is put out by CDC and make sure it represents the broader concerns of the public health community
- How do we use this technology in the most responsible way (concerns with data privacy)?
- Define what role we want to have/determine our position before those decisions are made for public health (it's a unique approach/will be useful?)
- Identify any potential data privacy concerns related to this technology

2. Salesforce/Microsoft and other solutions (really impactful for public health departments)

- Help define and think through how they are being used. This is a different use case/functionality than the Google/Apple product.
 - It would be useful to help public health agencies determine what technologies provide sustainable and useful augmenting contact tracing platforms.
 - Potentially develop communications on privacy based on the solutions associated with augmenting contract tracing platforms.

The innovative technologies team has already done a lot of this work and would be happy to help share resources in relation to the tools for Salesforce, for example.

Next Steps

- PHII will reach out to the design team to gain a better understanding of what stakeholders should be included in the broader public health community meeting. The team will also send out a draft agenda and gain feedback on how the engagement should be planned out further.
- The Task Force for Global Health wants to make artifacts (e.g., meeting minutes and materials, important documents, dates for future meetings, etc.) from the meetings available to the public via a web page: www.phii.org/contact-tracing.

Approach

Rounds of Convening

Round 0: The design team and the core group will guide us on an objective, before we have a larger engagement with core public health experts and associations

Round 1: Would include all of our public health associations and will develop a consensus/input

Round 2: Focus on technology partners, which would include apple/google if we want to pursue the exposure notification as part of contact tracing

Round 3: More towards an outward approach to the broader community (web-forum)

Round 0,1, and 2 would be more of a collaborative session

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