

PHA PRIVACY NOTICE – COVID 19 CONTACT TRACING PROGRAMME

1. Introduction

The Public Health Agency (PHA) through its Health Protection Service has a lead role in protecting the public from infectious diseases. The PHA is accountable to the Department of Health (DoH), which is responsible for developing policy, and associated legislation, allocating resources and determining priorities. The DoH is accountable through the Minister for Health to the NI Assembly.

The DoH 'Covid-19 Test, Trace and Protect Strategy' (27 May 2020) sets out the public health measures to be put in place to help contain and reduce the spread of Covid-19 and minimise the risk of a second wave of infection. Contact Tracing is a fundamental element of this Strategy.

The PHA is responsible for operating the NI Contact Tracing Centre.

This privacy notice describes the type of personal data collected and held by the PHA for the Contact Tracing Programme, the way that it is used and your rights in respect of this.

2. Contact Tracing Programme

The Contact Tracing Programme is designed to break the chain of transmission of the virus by contacting people who have had a positive test result for covid-19, tracing people who may have become infected by being in close contact with them and supporting all those people to self-isolate so that, if they have the disease, they are less likely to transmit it to others.

All members of the public with symptoms of covid-19 can book a test via the National Covid-19 Testing Programme. You will be informed of the result of your test either by email or text SMS. More details on the National Testing Programme and Privacy Notice relating to it can be found at: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/testing-covid-19>

Information about positive test results are shared with the NI Contact Tracing Centre (see section 7, 'Where do you get my personal data from' of this Privacy Notice).

If your test is positive, you will also be contacted by telephone by a PHA health professional (Contact Tracer) from the NI Contact Tracing Centre. This is to allow the Contact Tracer to identify, through discussion with you, anyone who has had close contact with you during the time that you were likely to be infectious (Contacts). Contacts may include someone:

- Who lives with you,
- who has been in direct contact with you or your bodily fluids (for example droplets from a cough or sneeze), or
- who has been within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes.

You will also be given relevant public health advice and information during the call.

Following assessment of the information provided by you, a contact tracer from the NI Contact Tracing Centre will call your contacts and provide advice on what they should do. If contacts are considered to be at risk of infection they will be advised to self-isolate for 14 days in line with government guidance (this will be explained during the telephone call).

All calls from the PHA Contact Tracers will come from the number 028 9536 8888.

Further information on the NI Contact Tracing Service can be found at:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/testing-and-tracing-covid-19/contact-tracing>

3. Why are you processing my personal information?

The PHA is the data controller for the personal data held by the PHA COVID 19 Contact Tracing Programme, under the Data Protection Act 2018, and uses your personal information for the following purposes:

- To contact you if you have tested positive for COVID 19, to provide public health advice if appropriate and to seek information on others that you have been in contact with;
- To contact you, if you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, to give you appropriate public health advice to self-isolate and seek a test if you are symptomatic, in order to prevent further transmission of the virus;
- Sharing personal information with the responsible public health bodies in Wales/Scotland/England/Republic of Ireland (or other country where relevant) (if you live in that country, or visited it during the period you may have been infectious) to inform their local planning and public health responses to COVID 19;
- To identify and manage clusters of disease;
- Public health surveillance – identify trends in the COVID 19 disease outbreak and to prevent/control spread (using anonymised data);
- Analysis – for reports and the production of official statistics (anonymised);
- Planning of services/actions in response to COVID 19 (anonymised);
- Research into coronavirus – including potentially being invited to be part of clinical trials.

Information provided by you, and collected about you, for the purposes of contact tracing for COVID 19 will not be used for any purpose that is not linked to COVID 19.

4. What information is collected?

We collect the following information on people who have tested positive for COVID 19 (*not all information fields will be relevant to, or collected, for all people who test positive*):

- Name
- Address
- Postcode
- Contact Number

- DOB
- HCN (Health and Care Number)
- Next of kin
- Email
- Gender
- Occupation
- Health Care Worker
- Place of work
- HSCNI role/job title
- GP
- Date of test sample
- Date of result
- Result
- Date of onset of COVID 19 symptoms
- Informed of result
- Symptomatic¹
- Date of Death ²
- Proxy Name³
- Proxy telephone number
- Proxy relationship

Most of the information will come from the National Testing Initiative and Hospital Information Systems (See section 7 'Where do you get my personal data from') and further information will be provided by you during the telephone call with the PHA Contact Tracer.

We collect the following information if you are the contact of a person who has tested positive:

- Name
- Phone Number
- Email address
- Work address
- Contact address
- Date of contact
- Type of contact (2metres for 15 minutes or more)
- Any places been eg shops
- Contact work in healthcare?
- Contact been unwell?
- Email address

¹ Do you have any symptoms of COVID 19, (including a new persistent cough, fever or loss of or change in sense of taste and smell)

² Date of Death provided by Next of Kin. To inform contact tracing timeframe and sensitivities.

³ 'Proxy' is where someone else speaks on your behalf, for example a parent/guardian for a child under 16 years of age; where a person is unable to speak or understand English etc)

- Proxy Name
- Proxy telephone number
- Proxy relationship
- Occupation
- Place of work
- HSCNI role/job title
- Symptoms

Your name, contact details and type of contact will be provided by the person who has tested positive (who you have been in contact with), further information will be provided by you during the phone call with the PHA Contact Tracer.

Any information that you give to the PHA Contact Tracers is not mandatory; however you are encouraged to provide the information requested by the PHA Contact Tracers, to help protect your family, friends and the wider community from COVID 19.

All calls from the PHA Contact Tracers will come from the number 028 9536 8888.

Please note that Contact Tracers will never:

- Disclose any of your personal or health/medical information to your contacts (although it may be possible for the person you have been in contact with to deduce your identity, from circumstantial information);
- Ask you to dial a premium rate number (for example, those starting 09 or 087) to speak to us;
- Ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product of any kind;
- Ask for any details about your bank account;
- Ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts;
- Ask for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone;
- Ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else;
- Ask you to access any website or smartphone application that does not belong to the Government, NHS, HSC, DoH or PHA.

5. The lawful basis for processing your personal information

The lawful basis for processing your personal information according to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 is:

GDPR Article 6(1)(e) - the processing is necessary for the performance of the Public Health Agency's official tasks carried out in the public interest.

The official functions of the Public Health Agency are set out in the Health and Social Care (Reform) Act (Northern Ireland) 2009. The Act sets out the PHA health Protection function, including that "The health protection functions are the protection of the community (or any part of the community) against communicable disease in particular by the prevention or control of such disease". In respect of COVID 19, this means that the PHA will operate the Contact Tracing Centre to help break the chain of transmission of the virus. By identifying people who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, and then asking them to self-isolate

we can limit the spread of the virus and minimise the risk of a second wave of infection, helping the move to more normal social and economic lives. This will also help to protect the Health Service from being overwhelmed.

The data collected by the Contact Tracing Centre includes personal data (see section 4). Some of this data relates to health data which is described as 'special category data'.

Conditions for processing special category data (article 9 GDPR):

Article 9(2) (g) – the processing is necessary on the grounds of substantial public interest

Data Protection Act 2018 – Schedule 1, Part 2, 5 & 6(1) (2)

GDPR Article 9(2)(h) and (i) – the processing is necessary for the provision of health and social care and the management of health and social care systems (h) and for reasons of public interest in the area of public health (i)

Data Protection Act 2018 – Schedule 1, Part 1, (2)(2)(f) – Health or social care purposes (h) and Schedule 1, Part 1 (3) – reasons of public interest in the area of public health (i)

6. Do I need to give my consent?

The data is obtained on a lawful basis as outlined above and therefore you do not need to give consent.

7. Where do you get my personal data from?

If you have a positive test result: Much of the data we use will have been provided directly by you, when you booked your test (or someone booked it on your behalf).

The NI Contact Tracing Centre receives Test results directly from:

- The national COVID 19 testing initiative
- Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust laboratories
- HSC Hospital Information Systems

Data from the National Testing initiative, HSC Trust laboratories and HSC Hospital Information Systems is transferred to a Central Testing Registry, held by the HSC Business Services Organisation (BSO), from where it is transferred to the PHA Contact Tracing Information System. All data is held in, and transferred via, secure systems.

The NI Contact Tracing Information System is hosted in the secure isolated cloud storage solution provided by Microsoft within the UK. Data is transferred within the secure HSCNI network. Access to the systems is restricted and governed by firewalls, and only known authorised user accounts can gain successful access.

You will also be asked to provide some additional information about yourself when you are contacted by the Contact Tracers, for example date when symptoms commenced, place of work, recent travel)

Contacts: Your name and contact details will be provided by the person (above) who you have been in contact with. If you have travelled on a flight or a ship with someone who has tested positive your details will be provided by the relevant service provider.

You may also be asked to provide some additional information about yourself when you are contacted by the Contact Tracers, for example if you have any symptoms, when these commenced, place of work, recent travel)

All calls from the PHA Contact Tracers will come from the number 028 9536 8888.

8. Do you share my personal data with anyone else?

Yes. To help us provide the best service for you, we may need to share your information with your GP, through a referral from a doctor in the Contact Tracing Centre to your GP. We would ask your consent to do this. However, on rare occasions it may be necessary to do this in the absence of your consent, for example if you took ill or collapsed during the phone call.

We may need to share your personal information with the responsible public health bodies in Wales/Scotland/England/Republic of Ireland (or other country where relevant) if you live in that country or visited it during the period when you may have been infectious. The information would be used to inform their local planning and public health responses to COVID 19 including for their contact tracing service.

We also may share some anonymised information with external organisations such as Department of Health NI, universities, auditors and research bodies, to help identify trends in disease and help develop measures to reduce the spread and severity of the COVID 19).

Non identifiable data may also be shared with Public Health England for the purposes of UK national disease surveillance.

Disease surveillance is a core public health function, making sure we have the right information available to us at the right time to inform decisions and actions across the public health system to help control the spread of the disease.

Surveillance involves gathering a wide variety of anonymised data about a disease from a range of sources, to provide us with situational awareness.

We need to understand the areas of the country which are most affected by an outbreak of disease, whether particular groups of people are affected, whether symptoms are getting more severe and when the outbreak might have peaked. This is then used to inform public health action to help prevent and control the disease.

Surveillance also provides data to be used by modelers, i.e. scientists who aim to predict how outbreaks will progress based on a range of different scenarios.

9. Do you transfer my personal data to other countries?

Only in exceptional circumstances, for example, where information needs to be shared with Public Health agencies outside the UK (for example where you live or have visited another country, such as

the Republic of Ireland) for the purposes of disease surveillance and to protect the health of individuals and others potentially affected by an outbreak. (See above section 8 'Do you share my personal data with anyone else?')

Any transfers will be made in full compliance with GDPR and only when we have a legitimate and lawful basis for doing so, and it is proportionate and necessary to achieve these legitimate and lawful purposes.

10. How long do you keep my personal data?

We will only retain your data for as long as necessary, in line with our Retention and Disposal Schedule and specific guidance issued by the Department of Health in Northern Ireland (Good Management, Good Records). This means we will keep your personal information for a period of up to 8 years. *Please note, the retention period is currently under further consideration, and this Privacy Notice will be updated as soon as the timescale is confirmed.*

11. What rights do I have?

- We only hold information about you that we need. You can ask for copies of the information that we hold about you;
- You can ask us to make changes to information we hold about you if you think that it is wrong;
- You can ask us to delete information we hold about you; however, there is some information that we will not be able to delete;
- You can ask us to stop processing information about you;
- You can ask us to share your information with another organisation (this may not always be possible);
- If you are not happy with what we do with the information we hold about you, you can speak to us about this;
- We use computers to hold and automatically look at your information – you can ask us about this.

If you want more detailed information on these rights, this can be found on the ICO website, at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

If you wish to ask us about any of these rights please contact the PHA Data Protection Officer (see address below)

12. How do I complain if I am not happy?

If you are unhappy with any aspect of this privacy notice, or with how your personal information is being processed, please contact the Data Protection Officer at the following address:

Public Health Agency Data Protection Officer:

Ms Rosemary Taylor

Public Health Agency, 12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BS

Tel: 028 9536 3519

Email: dpo.pha@hscni.net

Should you have any concerns about how your data has been handled or remain dissatisfied with any PHA response regarding the processing of your personal data, you can raise these concerns with the ICO, as follows:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK0 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

<https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>

Changes to this Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice will be kept under regular review and any updates will be placed on our website.