

Defining *Privacy*, *Confidentiality*, and Other Terms About Ethics



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Privacy

- ▶ **Privacy** is the right of a person to be free from intrusion or publicity concerning personal matters
 - ▶ **In other words, everyone has the right to keep their personal life personal**
- ▶ Examples of private information that may be discussed during contact tracing:
 - ▶ Who lives in your house with you?
 - ▶ With whom have you spent time in the past week?
 - ▶ Where have you gone in the past week?
 - ▶ How much time did you spend with people in your home and outside your home?
 - ▶ A contact tracer can ask about private information only for the purposes of contact tracing
 - ▶ A contact tracer can use the private information provided only for contact tracing purposes

Confidentiality

- ▶ **Confidentiality** is the right of an individual to have personal, identifiable medical information kept private and not released without his/her/their consent
- ▶ **In other words, your medical information cannot be shared with anyone else unless you agree to it—but your COVID-19 test results can be shared to protect public health**
- ▶ Examples of confidential information that will be discussed during case investigations and contact tracing:
 - ▶ Other health conditions the case or contact may have
 - ▶ Results from the COVID-19 test
- ▶ A contact tracer can learn only about medical information that is relevant to contact tracing and can use it only for contact tracing purposes

Autonomy

- ▶ ***Autonomy*** is the right of a person to make their own decisions; it is also known as right to “self” or as “agency”
 - ▶ **In other words, each person can make their own decisions, unless those decisions can harm someone else**
- ▶ Examples of autonomy in contact tracing:
 - ▶ You can request that people quarantine
 - ▶ You can request that cases isolate themselves from others
 - ▶ In some circumstances, these requests may be mandated and enforced

Justice

- ▶ ***Justice*** means to act to treat an individual justly or fairly (meaning everyone should be treated the same way independent of race, ethnicity, creed, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, or gender)
 - ▶ **In other words, everyone must receive the same treatment, regardless of who they are**
- ▶ Examples of justice in contact tracing:
 - ▶ Contact tracers will attempt to find all cases and contacts, regardless of religion, race, or sexual orientation
 - ▶ All communities, regardless of wealth, should have contact tracing efforts to reduce transmission

Public Good

- ▶ A ***public good*** is anything that benefits or provides for the well-being of the public
 - ▶ **In other words, it is something that benefits everyone in the society**
- ▶ Contact tracing programs are a public good because ...
 - ▶ They can reduce the risk to the public of being infected
 - ▶ They can reduce illness and deaths from COVID-19