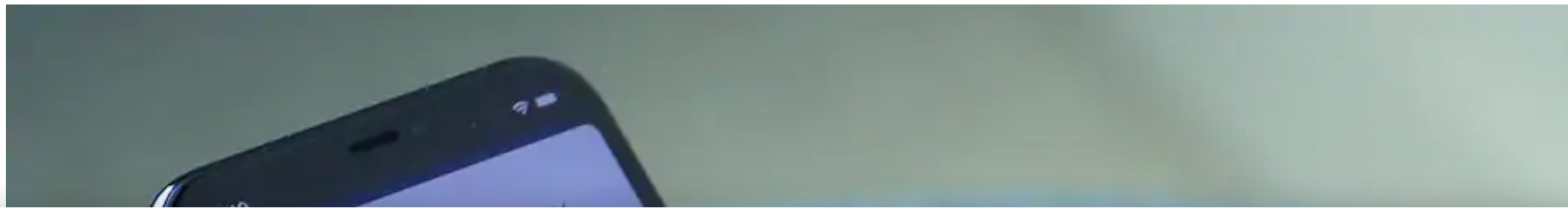


Americans need to get with the contact-tracing program

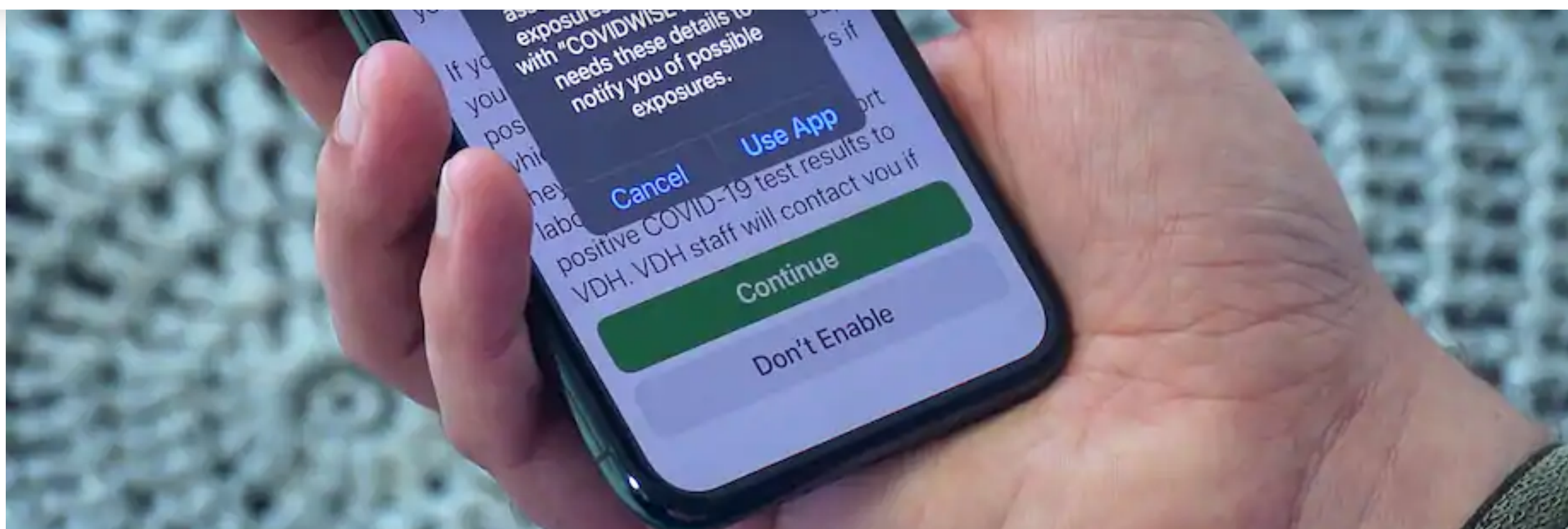


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Covidwise, a coronavirus-exposure notification app, uses special Bluetooth capabilities Google and Apple built into their smartphone operating systems. (Jonathan Baran/The Washington Post)

November 27, 2020 at 4:31 p.m. EST

Regarding the Nov. 23 editorial “[Contact tracing? There's an app for that.](#)”:

The politicization of the [coronavirus](#) and the failure to adopt a national app are two reasons contact-tracing apps have not caught on. Privacy concerns seem to highlight how Americans are getting more cautious, but not necessarily more educated, about big tech.

Companies such as Apple and Google already have your location data. Their systems can learn when and where you go to work or school. Social media sites tailor ads to users based on a variety of factors, and the profiles of their users are sold to advertising companies. People will purchase an Amazon Alexa but will not download an app that is both anonymous and safe for the well-being of themselves and their family members?

Something doesn't add up. It's impressive how big tech companies are able to sell us on their potentially harmful software, but the government can't persuade us to use these contact-tracing apps.

Shreya Singh, Vienna

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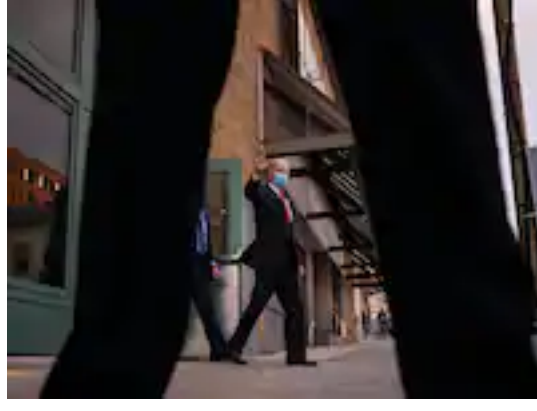
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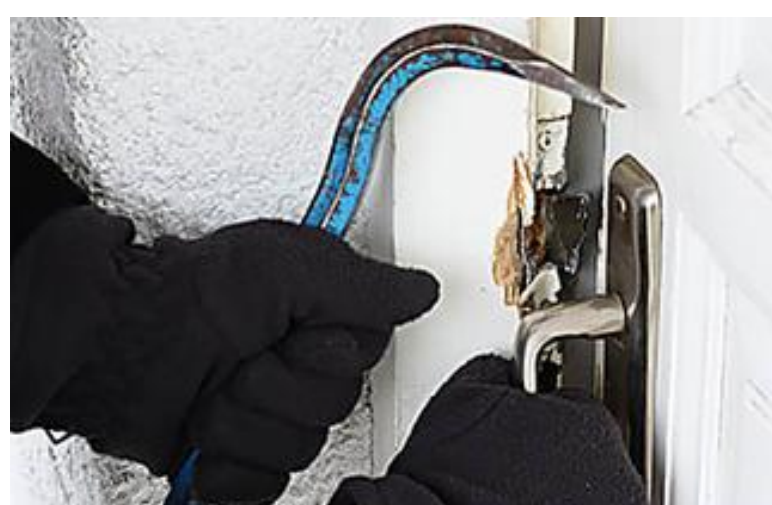
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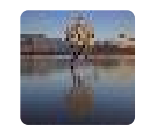
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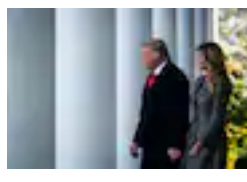
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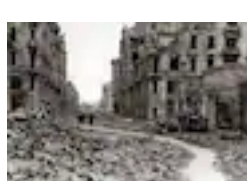
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