

# The vital role of smartphone apps during the COVID-19 pandemic

1688969760

**1688969760**

At the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, analog techniques like nasopharyngeal swab specimens for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing were prominent. The widespread use of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) such as facemasks and social distancing was reminiscent of the influenza outbreak in 1918. Despite the prevalence of smartphones throughout the world, scientific studies on digital technology, especially those concerning smartphone use, have been limited.