

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Tue, 17 Mar 2020 02:54:15 +0000
To: Eisinger, Robert (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: FW: Community-Spread Covid-19 Contact Tracking

Take a look and handle.

From: John G. Boland <(b) (6)>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2020 10:00 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)>
Subject: Community-Spread Covid-19 Contact Tracking

Dear Dr. Fauci:

Without success, for more than a week, I have tried to reach any techie CDC person about the problem of community-spread Covid-19 contact tracking.

Though your workload is unimaginable, I thought you might personally know and could provide contact information of an appropriate CDC or NIH epidemiologist.

Brief Summary of Conceptskip to End, if obvious***

Had I been to a doctor or ER with a virulent disease, they would immediately have asked where I had been, with whom, and for what duration. With that information, epidemiologists can notify and test those contacts... and their contacts... before their symptoms are evidenced.

This manual contact tracking process is workload intensive, calendar-day wasting, data-poor, and inaccurate.

"Location tracking" can provide the raw data needed to identify potential contacts automatically, early, and thoroughly, from information routinely collected by network providers.

The location, at a date and time, of a vast number of anonymous cell phones, over the preceding two weeks, would be very useful for identifying the index case and subsequent contacts of an individual.

As an illustration, the New York Times published, on 19 December 2019, "Twelve Million Phones, One Dataset, Zero Privacy" about the commercial location tracking industry:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/12/19/opinion/location-tracking-cell-phone.html>

End of Summary

Ignoring the techie and legal details, can you suggest an appropriate contact, while Covid-19 infections in the United States are few?

Your continuing dedication, candor, and data-driven focus are refreshing and very much appreciated, Dr. Fauci.

Best,

John G. Boland