

FAQ

- Will anybody be able to trace or identify me, using the data supplied?
 - No. We do not collect any identifying information. We do not even record your IP address (your computer or phone's address on the internet).
- What happens to my data when the study is over?
 - The data may be used in subsequent studies to identify coughs caused by other diseases. The data remains anonymous, as we do not collect any identifying information. The data will be stored on a secure server that is accessible only to approved researchers.
- Will the data be used for anything other than training a computer to identify a COVID-19 cough?
 - We may use the data in subsequent studies to identify coughs caused by other diseases. The data remains anonymous, as we do not collect any identifying information.
- Can I be identified based on the cough recording that I send?
 - No. We ask that you only cough a few times on the recording, and don't say anything, which limits the ability to use voice recognition software to identify your voice. Furthermore, we do not collect any identifying information, so there is no way to definitively trace the recording back to you. Lastly, the data we collect will be stored securely so that only approved researchers can access it. We have no plans to attempt to identify any person by their cough.
- Can I take part if I don't really have a cough at the moment?
 - Yes. Even a forced cough may be helpful in determining what a COVID-19 or a not-COVID-19 cough sounds like.
- Can I take part if I have had a SARS-CoV-19 laboratory test some time ago?
 - You may take part if you either
 - a) had a positive test (i.e. you were diagnosed with COVID-19) and you are still coughing, or
 - b) if your test was negative, but it was done less than 3 days ago.
- Can I take part if I have not had a lab test, but I'm sure I have COVID-19?
 - No, we can only use the data if we have medical evidence of whether you have COVID-19 or not. We do not verify your medical record, but rely on your honesty.
- Will the app be able to tell people whether they have COVID-19 or not?
 - We anticipate that the app will have reasonable accuracy in determining whether a cough is caused by COVID-19 or not. However, that depends on the quality of the data we get, the number of usable recordings we get, and the actual detectable difference (which is what we are testing with this study). It will likely not be 100% accurate though, therefore the app will only make a recommendation as to whether you should have a lab test done or not.
- How much data will I use to fill out the questionnaire and upload a recording?
 - Filling out the questionnaire will take very little data. The recording itself will take more, but the amount of data will depend on the length of the recording. A 5-15 second recording should take no more than a few megabytes of data.