Frequently Asked Questions

What is CO Exposure Notifications?
CO Exposure Notifications is Colorado’s official state COVID-19 exposure alert system. Built in partnership with Apple and Google, this smartphone service notifies users if they’ve been exposed to other users who have tested positive for COVID-19. Knowing about an exposure allows you to reduce the risk for your loved ones, seek timely medical attention, and slow the spread in your community.

How does it work?
When two people have CO Exposure Notifications enabled on their smartphones and come in close proximity to one another, their phones exchange anonymized “tokens” via Bluetooth. The service then logs that close interaction for the next 14 days. If one of those two people tests positive for COVID-19 after that encounter and chooses to anonymously share their positive result in CO Exposure Notifications, the other individual will receive an alert that they have been exposed to the virus. They will be directed to self-quarantine immediately and will be referred to COVID-19 resources.

How will this help Colorado slow the spread of COVID-19?
Awareness and identification are key to stopping the spread of COVID-19. By alerting those who might otherwise be unaware they were exposed to the virus, CO Exposure Notifications gives symptomatic and asymptomatic users the information they need to get tested, report positive results, and quarantine. Like wearing masks and keeping a safe distance, CO Exposure Notifications is another tool in our toolkit to keep ourselves and our community safe from the spread of COVID-19.

How can someone participate?
Android users can download CO Exposure Notifications from the Google Play store. Apple iPhone users can enable CO Exposure Notifications in their iPhone Settings. Under the Exposure Notifications label, select your country and state, and opt in. iPhone 5S, 6, or 6 Plus, must be updated to iOS 12.5. If you have an iPhone 6S or newer, update to iOS 13.7 or higher. Detailed instructions can be found on addyourphone.com.
Is Google, Apple, or the State collecting personal information or tracking my location?
No, the service does not use or store personally identifiable information. It uses Bluetooth, not GPS, to exchange randomly generated anonymous “tokens” (example token: Y2RzQ0RT). These tokens are not associated with your phone number, your name, your location, or your IP address. Tokens change every 15 minutes to protect your identity. After 14 days, or once an alert is triggered, tokens are permanently erased. The code for the service is open source, so people can verify that it doesn’t capture personally identifiable information.

If I test positive will my identity be shared with anyone via exposure notifications?
No. CO Exposure Notifications is completely anonymous. Your personal information is never collected, stored, or shared. If you test positive for COVID-19, and choose to upload your result to the service, the alert will not tell anyone where they were exposed or who exposed them.

How quickly will I be notified if I have been exposed?
You will be notified once the COVID-19 positive individual authorizes CO Exposure Notifications to send an alert. You can be notified of any exposure that happened within the last 14 days. How quickly you receive a notification after you’ve been exposed depends on when that person received their positive result and how quickly their information was shared in the service.

I have received a positive result for COVID-19. How do I share my result?
If you have a confirmed positive test result, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will text you a link with a one-time verification code to share your result in CO Exposure Notifications. You may also receive a call from a local case investigator to follow up about your exposure and symptoms.

If you have not received your verification code within 48 hours of your positive test result, you may request a verification code by contacting CDPHE_CO_Exposure_Notifications@state.co.us.

We encourage anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 to quarantine for 10 days, regardless of symptoms or test results. If you have a fever or symptoms that aren’t improving, continue to isolate past 10 days.

Learn more at addyourphone.com

For additional resources on COVID-19, visit covid19.colorado.gov