



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Joint statement by federal, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners regarding the use of contact tracing and similar apps to address covid-19

HALIFAX - In an effort to combat the spread of covid-19, government and public health authorities are looking for novel ways to use technologies to limit the pandemic. One of the tools being considered is contact tracing applications. These tools are not without risks to the right to privacy. The issues contact tracing or similar apps raise must be carefully considered before such tools are implemented.

With that in mind, federal, provincial and territorial privacy commissioners have issued a [joint statement](#). This statement sets out the elements that must be considered before deciding whether or not to implement this technology in Nova Scotia and other Canadian jurisdictions. The commissioners invite their respective governments to respect the following principles if they decide to implement contact tracing or similar apps: consent and trust; legal authority; necessity and proportionality; purpose limitation; de-identification; time-limitation; transparency; and accountability and safeguards.

It is critically important that governments and public health authorities are transparent about the use of such technologies and make their use voluntary so as to build public trust in their application and use.

“Contact tracing apps have the potential to impact the right to privacy. Their use must be carefully considered before they are implemented to ensure that Nova Scotian values and our legal framework are respected,” said Commissioner Ralph.

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