Consent Form

This app is part of a human subjects research study conducted by Principal Investigator Frank Curriero, PhD, at Johns Hopkins University. You do not have to join this study; participation is completely voluntary. Do not use this app for any purpose other than this research. Any other use of this app, including for clinical, diagnostic, or public health decision-making purposes, is strictly prohibited. Please exit the app immediately if you do not intend becoming a participant in the study.

What is the project about?

COVID Control is a new surveillance tool for COVID-19 based on self-reported body temperatures and, optionally, other symptoms, from users around the country using a cell phone app. We will use this tool in a study to identify unusual increases in body temperatures in certain geographic areas that could generate real-time risk estimates of potential COVID-19 outbreaks across the U.S. This study is designed to provide an effective surveillance mechanism for the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligibility for joining the study.

Any individual above the age of 13 and residing in the US is eligible to participate.

We need participation by a wide range of U.S. residents to give us enough information to build accurate models for predicting the spread of COVID-19, and, we hope, ultimately help us save lives.

We recognize the sensitive nature of the collected data and take the security and confidentiality of your information seriously. As we describe below, your participation in this project is voluntary and will remain confidential.

What do we need you to do?

On first use, this app will require you to enter your age and gender. You will also be requested to provide access to your location. We need this to assign your information to a particular region such as zip code or county. It is not used to individually identify you.

We need you to enter your body temperature, and optionally, symptoms once a day for a month.

How long does the study last?

We foresee the next two months to be a critical period where your contribution will be extremely valuable in controlling this pandemic. However, this study may extend beyond this period depending on the continuously evolving situation.

What information will we use and how will we use it?

We collect personal information including, your age range, gender, body temperature, symptoms and approximate location. Your submissions will be linked to a randomly generated non-identifiable ID for the duration of the study. This information will be available only to the researchers and will be used for monitoring the spread COVID-19.

This app does not give you health advice. If you need health advice or you are sick, please contact your healthcare provider.

Data sharing

We will be sharing the results of our analysis of the aggregate data with government agencies and with other researchers. We will not be sharing your data with any commercial entities.

Privacy and security of the data

If you received this invitation to join the study and use the App by email or text, we are storing your contact details separately from the information you give us. All submitted information will be de-identified and will be analysed with other people's information. Therefore, we will never be able to link your reported data to your contact details.

All collected and processed data are protected with adequate security methods. This includes the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the data during collection and storage. We will do our best to protect your personal information from accidental loss and from loss, misuse and unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction.

Declaration of consent

By using this app and the services contained therein, you agree that the personal data you have voluntarily submitted will be stored by us and processed and used in accordance with this privacy policy.

This consent can be used to enter data for a single person, or for a household, provided each person for whom data are subsequently reported has given their consent. A household member is anyone sharing the same address. To enter information for members of the household, you (the primary user of this app) must be over of the age of 18. You can create additional profiles for any member of your household above the age of 13. By agreeing to this consent form you

confirm that you have explained the purpose of this study and the use of their temperature and symptoms data to the additional users of this app.

Ending Consent

Your participation is voluntary, and you have the right at any time to stop participation and end the consent to use your personal data. Information obtained and used before you end your consent will continue to be used for research. If you wish to end your consent, let us know.

Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns about the study or the use of the app?

Please send an email to controlcovidcontrol@jh.edu

Questions or concerns about participating in this study may be directed to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health at JHSPH.irboffice@jhu.edu.