**Apple and Google partner on COVID-19 contact tracing technology**

Apple and Google are collaborating to launch a system “to assist in enabling contact tracing”, whereby apps can notify smartphone users if they have come into proximity with people infected by Covid-19. The rare collaboration, announced on Friday morning, comes as demand has grown for tech-based crisis solutions that preserve user privacy. The hope is that aggressive contact tracing can allow cities to emerge from “shelter at home” mandates while still containing the outbreak. “Contact tracing makes it possible to combat the spread of the Covid-19 virus by alerting participants of possible exposure to someone who they have recently been in contact with, and who has subsequently been positively diagnosed as having the virus,” Apple said in one of the technical documents it released.  
  
When an individual tests positive, they can then typically use the app to alert a central authority — such as a public health agency. The agency will then be able to access their data briefly to identify and notify others who may have been exposed, while protecting the infected individual’s identity.

More information can be [found here](https://www.ft.com/tour).   
<https://www.ft.com/content/8a11bf86-dd71-4fd2-b196-e3ddffe48936>